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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Are you in favor of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's plan to redefine public service and "reduce" government?

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INSIDE



30 Years of Innocence

A Texas man declared innocent Tuesday after 30 years in prison had at least two chances to make parole and be set free.

Nation...Page 14



Submerged Down Under

Weary residents of a flooded Australian coastal city braced for water levels to peak Wednesday.

Asia...Page 15



Jacko Too Sick

A choreographer who worked with Michael Jackson on his ill-fated concert tour told a judge Tuesday he clashed with Jackson's doctor and others.

Life & Style...Page 21

CUC files emergency power rate hike petition. PAGE 5
New task force to tighten accounting of federal grants. PAGE 6

Delegates to lose right to vote in committee of the whole

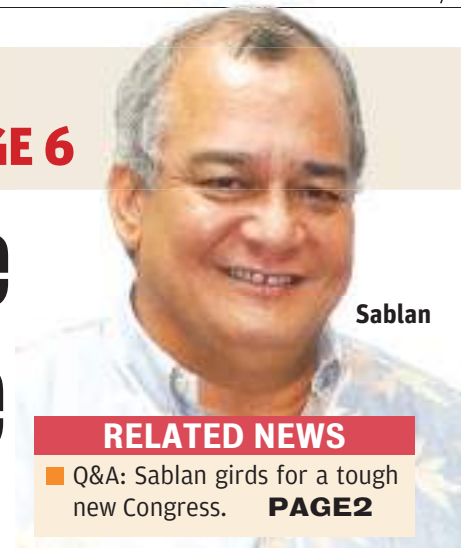


AFTER THE RAIN

A man rides his bicycle in a flooded area in front of Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa yesterday afternoon. The rains during the past days resulted in flooding in low-lying and flood-prone areas. The Emergency Management Office also issued yesterday a high surf and small craft advisory, which will remain in effect until today.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
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EDITOR



Sablan

RELATED NEWS

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WASHINGTON, D.C.—When the U.S. House of Representatives took up the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act as a committee of the whole in 2009, the five delegates of U.S. territories and the District of Columbia and the resident commissioner of Puerto Rico were among those who voted for its passage.

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Economy, finances will top bill leadership meeting tomorrow

» **But House speaker says nothing can be achieved in meeting**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

When Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos hold a close-door meeting with lawmakers tomorrow, improving the economy and government finances will be on top of the agenda amid a government deficit that is already estimated at \$6 million in the



Fitial

first three months of Fiscal Year 2011 alone.

Other lawmakers also hoped that everyone in the room will "set aside politics" and work on a "plan of action" to end the CNMI's worst financial crisis.

The full leadership meeting will be at the Saipan World Resort in

Susupe starting at 11:30am Friday, Fitial and Inos said in a joint letter yesterday to

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Froilan says he will step down as speaker by end of February

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

For at least the third time since last year, House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said he will step down as speaker—this time by end of February.

The last time Tenorio told reporters he will step down as speaker but will remain a member of the 17th Legislature was

in early October, saying at that time that he will step down in a month or two.

After a meeting with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and an assurance of continued support from the members

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Local

Q&A: Sablan girds for a tough new Congress

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
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EDITOR

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Dressed in light blue dress shirt tucked into a pair of denims, CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan came early to the office yesterday despite being a bit under the weather. Just days after flying from Saipan, the congressman is already champing at the bit to get started on the work that needs to be done when the 112th Congress is sworn into office today (Thursday on

Saipan).

"They're done," he replied when asked about the bills that he intends to introduce in the new Congress. All of the bills he introduced in the previous Congress that didn't make it to law have been updated and are awaiting introduction just as soon as the legislative sessions get started.

On the eve of his swearing in, *Saipan Tribune* sat down with Sablan to talk about his agenda for the next two years, the challenges he faces in the Republican-dominated 112th Congress (he was identified

with the Democrats in the previous Congress), and the hard work that lies ahead to keep the CNMI agenda on target at a time when the Northern Marianas economy is going through one of the roughest patches in its history.

Q: What are your priorities in the new Congress?

A: It's always been generally to try and bring as much federal assistance to the Northern Mariana Islands, particularly at this time.

The 111th Congress was rather generous to the North-



JAYVEE VALLEJERA

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan at his office on the fourth floor of Cannon House in the Capitol Building.

ern Mariana Islands and obviously that is going to change in the 112th...because the Republican Party has this platform that they are going to cut spending—discretionary spending—and that's where we get a lot of our money. But we'll continue to work on that.

I'd like to see what I can do with some of our tourism slots. Unfortunately, the Republicans have a plan to cut off earmarks, so I'll have to find a way to get around that if I could and find earmarks for some of our tourist destinations [that] need help.

When I come home, one of the places I usually visit are the homesteads. I dropped by this family and I was talking to the head of the household and he's really struggling now and he's reached a point where he has to choose between paying his bills and providing for his family. Even with food stamps, a family of four gets a little over \$300 under the block grant program that we have now. I'd like to see if we could implement the full stamp program, the real program that they have in other jurisdictions. That would [help] a family of four get up to over \$900 or close to a thousand, if not a thousand dollars per month, to help them with their food.

Obviously our government will have to absorb the administrative cost but that could be less than 10 percent of the program. We could increase the money [going] to the CNMI, from our own estimate, to over \$20 million or maybe even \$30 million, depending on the program recipients.

Last year, I went around and visited schools. I went to Hopwood Junior High and I am very concerned that the facilities we provide our inmates are much better than the facilities we provide our students, our children. There is a \$15 million interest-free bond available to the Northern Mariana Islands that has not been touched because the Legislature has to approve the repay-

ment. Fifteen million dollars for 10 years. Again, this will cause consternation and some issues with our government there but, on the other hand, we have over \$55 million of CIP money that hasn't moved! I would like to try and put in language that would allow for this money to go to PSS to build schools. It's not just an investment in the education of our kids, which is an investment in our future, but it also moves the money for projects that we need. That's what we need right now, projects that will stir up the economy.

I'm very happy that [Homeland Security] Secretary [Janet] Napolitano has written to me and informed me that the regulations for CWs [transitional worker visas] will be coming out hopefully by March, if not sooner. That is something we're been working on.

We continue to reach out to DHS, we continue to reach out to the White House, in trying to ensure that China and Russia tourists will continue to come to the Northern Mariana Islands. So far, the information we have is very positive, although they would not put that in paper, but it's very positive. The word they used is that, even if China and Russia are not in the final visa waiver program, the Secretary can continue to use her discretionary authority and that, unless we give them a reason to stop it, like overstaying tourists and those kinds of things, we can look forward to a continued [entry of] Russia and China tourists to the CNMI.

Q: In terms of additional funding going to the CNMI, it appears based on what you said that you will be tapping the federal side of the government and not so much earmarks coming from Congress.

A: Well, if earmarks are going to happen, we'll be in there. At the same time, I

Continued on Next Page

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From Page 2

understand that some of our government officials, they want direct appropriations for government operations. That's not going to happen. They just don't do that. There's no way that Congress is going to appropriate money for our operation.

But we'll continue to work on the programs, particularly for the Public School System and obviously transportation and infrastructure is an item that the Republicans want to reduce in their efforts to reduce discretionary spending. The only things that they're not going to touch, from what I understand, are defense and veterans.

Q: The CNMI is going through one of the toughest times it's ever had. What are some of the things that can be done immediately to help the Commonwealth?

A: One of the things that we need to do is start spending in our economy. We've got over \$100 million in ARRA money; not all of them have been spent. I don't know if all of them will be spent by September.

We're got over \$55 million in project money that needs to be spent because there are other territories that need that money. I have a feeling that Interior wants to take that money and use it for some other territories, like they have done before and I'm going to fight hard for that not to happen. I am meeting with Interior—the CIP people—this week or next week. But how can I fight if our own government has not spent the money. Some of them have been there for five years. We've got money in the CNMI that's been there for seven years that has not been spent. Some people blame the paperwork involved. Well, if you do the paperwork five years ago and it takes you two years to do it, you're already three years into the project; you're complete with the project! We need to get these things moving because money is tight and those are the things that could help out with the economy.

Two, we cannot expect the federal government to resolve our problems. We need to do it ourselves. And I really think there are many capable people out there who can do this but it's just that we need to focus, focus on where we are, inventory who we are and where we're at, and then decide where we're going.

I understand there's going to be a meeting between the [Fitial] administration and the Legislature this month. That's a meeting I'd like to attend. I don't know when it is because I need to be here 'til the end of the month but that's a meeting I'd like to attend if they, if the governor, would be kind

enough to invite me. That doesn't mean that, even if I attend or don't, they can make a wish list and hand it off to me and say, "Do this or you don't do your job."

Q: What about the bills you introduced in the previous Congress that didn't make it into law?

A: We're prepared. We've drafted them already.

Q: Which ones are your priorities?

A: We'll get back the submerged lands and I'd really like to see also the Rota National Park study. I'm very happy that our request to do a study on improving the Troops Store for our military and our reservists went through. I'd like to also work on the Tinian Park, an annex of the American Memorial Park, and see if we can get that through. PSS also has an agenda that I'd like to work on, the reauthorization of WIA [Workforce Investment Agency], maybe the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act. We going to try and make that more conducive to the territories, including the Northern Marianas.

This is also important and time-sensitive: If we don't do something for the federal government to recognize that in the Northern Mariana Islands, a Commonwealth law provided IR [immediate relative] status to those individuals married to U.S. citizens... status to our CNMI permanent residents...about 84 of them remain from the over 400 we had and those 91 individuals born in the Northern Marianas between 1974 and Jan. 7, 1978, that these people next year are deportable. If we don't take care also of those third-country nationals whose children are already 21 years old, serv-

ing in the armed services, but cannot have a change of status, including the CNMI IRs, primarily because of income threshold—they just don't make enough money to have a change of status—these people next year are deportable.

I have spoken to many, even those people who are opposed to the Interior report, who said, when I explained my plan for them, they said this is okay. We'll give these people status, similar to FAS [Freely Associated States], so that they could legally remain in the Northern Mariana Islands. And they would not need an advance parole to leave and come back, they don't need a permit to get a job, and remain there until they can have a change of status.

Q: Whatever happened to the Interior recommendations to grant immigration status to long-term alien workers in the CNMI?

A: Well, those are recommendations and the secretary of Interior was by law obligated to make that report, give Congress the options available and that's it, they've met the requirement of law. I'm not aware that anyone here in Congress raised anything to grant urgency to the report, at least here in the House side. We need to find a middle ground for these people that will be affected. ...For example, our hotels. Rather than bring in new employees, make sure that we have a labor pool to take care of all these properties. I think we can find a middle ground.

In all fairness, the CNMI Senate, as I understand it, will conduct one more round of hearings and issue their report probably sometime in February. Because it is part of our government, I cannot ignore

their report and I am looking forward to them issuing that report and maybe we could adjust my proposal to meet their recommendation.

Q: What's your level of optimism in terms of the progress you will make with this legislative agenda in the 112th Congress?

A: I'm always optimistic. I've made some very good friends here on both sides of the aisle. I show up when I'm expected to show up...but I will say this much: I've been treated very well here. Despite [the fact that] we don't get everything we want, I've been treated very well by both sides. The territories, including the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, also do well even when the Democrats are in the minority.

Q: How is your rela-

tionship with the governor right now?

A: He is the governor; he is my governor. He said we'll work together. ...I will work with anybody, so long as it advances the interest of the Northern Mariana Islands. My loyalty to anybody ends where my loyalty to the CNMI begins. That's something that I carry with me day in and day out. The Northern Marianas is the first thing that comes to my mind when I wake up and is the last thing on my mind when I sleep, whether it's a weekend or a workday.

Q: How do you feel about taking your oath of office for a second term?

A: Tomorrow, when I take my oath, I take it in all humility. I am a very privileged individual. Whenever I walk into the chamber, I'm still awed

that, in America, an immigrant like myself could become a member. That chamber is hallowed. It's very serious for me. And I can never thank the people of the Northern Marianas enough for the privilege and opportunity to represent them here in the United States Congress. Never.

Q: A final word for your constituents?

A: When I first ran for this office two years ago and got elected, I had no illusions of what it takes. It takes work, a lot of work, long hours, and that hasn't changed. My staff is hardworking. The only time I have issues with my staff is when they don't produce. The people of the Northern Mariana Islands sent me to Washington to work for them and if I don't work for them then I have no reason to be here. ...I will continue to work hard.

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None of 26 laws signed in 2010 was for revenue-generation, economic growth

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Of the 26 public laws signed in 2010, none has been about generating additional revenue and directly helping the economy grow despite campaign promises and inaugural speeches vowing to pass such bills.

Most of the bills are amendments to existing laws, while some are about renaming buildings and other structures or designating certain areas as cultural centers.

Some lawmakers including House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) said political bickering and strained relations between the House and Senate leaderships caused the dismal performance of the 17th Legislature when it comes to living up to its promise of “working together” and passing bills that will help the economy grow.

Members of the House majority and the Senate Tax Policy and Enforcement

Review Committee chaired by Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said this is not the right time to raise taxes to be able to generate revenues.

Still, others like House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said the Senate failed to realize that legalizing casino operation on Saipan is the only viable industry to grow the whole CNMI economy at this time. The Senate killed Tenorio’s casino bill after passing the House.

“Yes I am disappointed that no revenue generating bills passed during the first year of this Legislature,” he said.

But lawmakers and the Fitial administration have different opinions on so-called quality bills that eventually became laws.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the Fitial administration is aware of revenue generating measures pending at the legislature, as the bills undergo the usual legislative review and scrutiny.

“Nonetheless, we would like to see effective revenue generating measures

get enacted into law. This is something that the administration hopes to work closely on with the legislature. I anticipate that this will be a topic of discussion at this Friday’s meeting between the governor, lieutenant governor and the lawmakers,” he said.

One of the few major ones to be signed into law was the Fiscal Year 2011 budget law or Public Law 17-21, but its delayed passage over political bickering partially shut down the government in October when salaries had already been delayed since June.

Benavente said it was the first time that the Constitution disallowed operating under continuing resolution and required timely passing of a budget or the government will have to shut down.

He said while there were no specific revenue-generating bills passed, there were quality bills signed into laws.

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) said although there were no revenue generating bills passed in 2010, there were bills that became public laws which

may be defined or considered as “quality laws” for having direct or indirect positive effects on people.

“For example, Public Law 17-3, which allows DPL to waive rebuilding of residential dwelling after it has been determined that a homesteader has constructed a dwelling but was destroyed by a typhoon,” said Santos, author of the bill that became PL 17-3.

FROILAN

From Page 1

of the House majority, Tenorio stayed on in his post.

In a phone interview yesterday, Tenorio mentioned that he will step down as speaker but leaves it up to the majority members to decide whom to support as next speaker and face off with House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan).

Republican minority members were ready in December to call for a House reorganization to elect new officers but the leadership didn’t call for a session.

The first House session for 2011 will be on Monday, Tenorio said.

He said when he steps down, he could be more productive and introduce legislation that he has been wanting to focus on like privatizing the Common-

wealth Utilities Corp., pushing for an elected public auditor, and reforming the Marianas Public Land Trust.

Tenorio, a former CNMI governor from 1994 to 1998, reiterated his disappointment over the defeat of his Saipan casino legalization bill which he said remains to be the only viable industry to save the CNMI economy.

Some lawmakers said yesterday they will only believe the speaker about stepping down when he actually vacates his post. They cited the speaker’s previous statements about him stepping down only to remain in his post up to this day.

Tenorio also earlier said he will work part-time at his brother’s engineering consultancy firm to supplement his income but said he will recuse himself from voting or discussions if there’s any piece of legislation involving Juan C. Tenorio & Associates Inc.

stop me from going on the floor and just bugging everyone. And I do, I go down and I bug people! (Laughs) I do that. Pedro Pierluisi [of Puerto Rico] does that. Donna [Christensen of the U.S. Virgin Islands] does that. Eleanor [H. Norton of the District of Columbia] does that.”

In the Democrat-controlled 111th Congress, Sablan said he was present 90 percent of the time when the House went into a committee of the whole.

He shrugged when asked for the reason behind the rule change. “That’s just how the Republicans do it; they just never allow delegates to vote. Democrats do. I’ve made some efforts to convince them otherwise but apparently that’s fallen on the wayside.”

Schwalbach said this is a done deal. “The Republicans announced sometime ago that they were going to do this. The delegates have all written to the incoming leadership asking for a meeting, asking for a reconsideration of this issue. There’s been no formal response to the delegates’ formal request and staff people have said that...there’s no time to talk about it. In other words, ‘we’re doing it,’” he said.

Schwalbach expects the House’s first session today to be lively when it comes time to adopt the refurbished House Rules.

“I’m sure there’ll be considerable amount of debate on the Rules because there will be changes to the existing Rules that the Republican majority is proposing that will be criticized by the Democratic minority,” he said.

A committee of the whole is when the entire House of Representatives is considered one large committee. All members of the body become members of the committee to facilitate debate, usually on appropriation matters.

“In the committee of the whole, it’s designed for those kinds of issues, those kinds of debates. It’s more flexible,” Sablan said.

The committee of the whole, once it acts on a bill, reports to the House and that’s where delegates don’t get to vote.

ECONOMY

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House Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Saipan).

Tenorio and Manglona’s offices informed their members yesterday afternoon about the meeting.

Fitial and Inos told lawmakers that coming together “to formulate and implement a concerted approach and plan of action” is imperative to address the “overwhelming challenges.”

‘Nothing will happen’

While many lawmakers yesterday expressed optimism that the meeting will make a difference in the lives of the people they serve, the House speaker said tomorrow’s meeting will be no different from the previous ones that failed to achieve anything.

“The governor should realize that he is the top leader of the CNMI and he should decide what course to take, to get the economy going, and then tell lawmakers about his plans. From there, we could work on those plans and help him with his plans,” Tenorio, who is also a former governor, told *Saipan Tribune*.

Fitial and Inos told lawmakers that while 2010 proved extremely challenging for the economy and the government’s finances, their duties as public servants and their ambitions to usher in an improved standard of living for the people should remain undeterred.

Manglona said as Senate president, he looks forward to the full leadership meeting.

“It’s good that we can all come to the table, be frank about the issues, and be able to leave the meeting with the sense that we will do necessary follow up. I believe 99 percent of the success of a project depends on following up on what’s discussed,” he said.

Manglona and Tenorio, as leaders of the Senate and House, often find themselves in opposite sides of issues such as on legalizing casino on Saipan and retaining or letting go of Legislative Bureau director Glenna SP. Reyes.

“I wish we can set aside politics and do what is right, and do things with a sense of urgency. I like to think that our people deserve more than that,” Manglona said.

House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) said coming up with a unified position is “the first step” to resolving many of the problems in the CNMI.

The governor first brought up the idea of a full leadership meeting in his written State of the Commonwealth report to the Legislature on Dec. 30.

Specific proposals

Benavente, a former lieutenant governor and speaker, said one of the issues he will bring up is the need to beef up tax collections, including spot audits.

“There have been many allegations of tax law violations but because of our inability to enforce tax laws, we’ve not been checking on these violations,” he said.

He cited as an example the issue of having an insufficient number of tax auditors at the Revenue and Taxation Division. He said if the Fitial administration and the Legislature agree that this should be a priority, then it could be addressed easily.

As for the speaker having reservations about the meeting, Benavente said it will be unfortunate that the speaker might miss an opportunity to meet with fellow lawmakers in the Senate especially because Tenorio and senators have strained relationship over the defeat of the speaker’s casino bill, among other things.

‘Downsize’

Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan), who will also be at the meeting, said he supports the idea of downsizing government and one of the ways to do this is to privatize some government functions and offices, and transition the government employees affected into private sector jobs.

Iguel said the function of beautifying the island by the Division of Parks and Grounds or Parks and Recreation, for example, could be privatized.

“That way, the government will save money because private contractors will be the one to take care of beautifying parks and roads, and save on gas needed to run the equipment, or in buying equipment parts when they break down,” he said.

The freshman lawmaker also said there should be an across-the-board desk audit to see which government positions and functions are no longer

needed.

However, the Fitial administration has yet to implement recommendations by an independent firm that conducted a desk audit on the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

Benavente has also been in support of reducing government by downsizing or closing altogether unnecessary offices.

He said the full leadership meeting is similar to his proposed budget summit early last year that the House leadership thumbed down. He said his proposed summit could have prevented payless paydays and government shut-down in 2010.

‘Close-door meeting’

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said only Fitial, Inos, and the lawmakers will be in the close-door meeting.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), who will be among those attending the meeting, said if it’s up to him, he would rather have the meeting open to the public for transparency.

He said there should be no more rhetoric, but rather clear objectives at the start of the meeting.

Tebuteb, who also chairs the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, hopes that bickering and political differences will be set aside.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), who will also be attending, said he would have liked for the meeting “to be at a more austere location like the Multi-Purpose Center.”

For Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), it is incumbent among lawmakers to attend any meetings that would help resolve problems that the CNMI faces.

“During this meeting, it would be great to see public servants come together cohesively in finding solutions to positively address the pressing economic issue of our Commonwealth which has been greatly affecting our people and islands,” she said.

The freshman lawmaker cited several areas of interest for discussion, including Article 12 or the land alienation provision of the CNMI Constitution, submerged lands, reassessment of the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the food stamp program, and revisiting the issue of mining pozzolan in the Northern Islands.

DELEGATES

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That happened because, based on the 111th House Rules, representatives of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia—who usually have non-voting status on the House floor—are allowed to vote on bills considered by the committee of the whole.

That power, however, will expire today, when the 112th Congress is sworn in. Besides the election of Speaker-designate John Boehner (R-Ohio), the House’s first order of business is the adoption of its House Rules and one of the many changes the new Republican leadership will implement is to strip the CNMI and other U.S. territories the power to vote in the committee of the whole.

“[Delegates] will be stripped of that right and that’s unfortunate because that’s a way for the delegates to express the views of the 4 million Americans who live in these non-state areas, so that their views are also taken into consideration when legislation is passed by the House of Representatives,” said Robert J. Schwalbach, chief of staff of CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan.

That could mean lesser funding going to the territories, including the Northern Marianas, since most appropriation bills are taken up by the House as a committee of the whole. By how much? Consider the ARRA bill, one of Sablan’s first votes in the committee of the whole. That measure has resulted in \$113.74 million being awarded to the CNMI as of Sept. 30, 2010, according to Recovery.gov. Of that amount, \$32.36 million has already been received, creating or retaining 333 jobs in the Northern Marianas.

Sablan assured, though, that this rule change will not hamper his efforts to make himself and the Northern Mariana Islands heard. “Hey, that doesn’t

CUC files emergency power rate hike petition

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has filed an emergency power rate petition that if approved by the Public Utilities Commission will take effect starting Jan. 1, 2011.

This after the utilities firm disclosed that the petition filed on Dec. 30 would cover immediate increase in leverized energy adjustment clause rate, or LEAC, due to a \$1 million loss as a result of market changes.

CUC wants a 2.243 cents per kWh increase in LEAC rate, or from the existing \$0.24446 per kWh to \$0.26688 per kWh effective January 1, 2011.

Through its lawyers, CUC asked CPUC's immediate consideration of the emergency power rate hike and suspend any public notice which might normally be required due to the immediate and emergency nature of the petition.

CUC found that due to increased world oil prices, present and projected numbers through March 31, 2011 have already produced at least a \$1 million loss in LEAC revenue collections to the agency including CUC's budgeted management of the combined utility system.

Such losses, CUC said, would cause an immediate and irreparable inability to pay for oil deliveries and which inability would cause power outages affecting the health and safety of the CNMI's residents, businesses, and government agencies.

Based on its petition, CUC's oil bills have gone up significantly since the CPUC's recent LEAC order on Sept. 24, 2010 which set the LEAC rate at \$0.24446 per kWh or 24.446

cents per kWh through March 31, 2011. This rate was set lower than the parties' initially proposed due to the concern about the dire need CUC economy and the customers' ability to pay.

However, CUC said that world oil markets have rendered CUC's circumstances even more dire.

Saipan Tribune learned that CUC's supplier, Mobil Oil, has advised the agency that prices will continue to rise. The projection was also in line with the forecast made by third party experts who predict increases will continue through the end of the present LEAC period ending on March 31.

"CUC has no other source of oil than the contract with Mobil which has been reviewed by the commission. There is, in fact, no other alternative for the purchase and delivery of oil than this contract," said CUC, adding that its budget assumes that the LEAC rates fully cover the cost of oil.

"There is no other source of funding to continue CUC's operation," it added.

'Outages, possible shutdown'

Because of the problem, CUC said that next month it is faced with two unacceptable alternatives which include the massive power outages and shutting down of the agency's operation.

"First, as oil bill increase, CUC will have to stop paying for its only source of fuel with resultant blackouts. The alternative would, in affect, shut down CUC. This is because the payments require cash. In order to quickly amass the cash to pay the next, higher priced oil shipments. CUC must immediately

stop paying its other bills, and cancel virtually all procurements," said CUC in its petition.

Apart from the harm to the CNMI, either one of these alternatives will put CUC in immediate danger of violating the U.S. District Court's stipulated orders which will result in further penalties and fines accruing and eventually could result in a receivership of CUC.

'\$2M shortfall in April'

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren, in his declaration to the court, indicated that if world oil prices continue to rise, the agency's shortfall will reach \$2 million in April this year.

"If this trend continues, the shortfall could exceed \$2 mil-

lion by the time the next LEAC rate is scheduled to take effect on April 1, 2011. Diligent cash management has allowed CUC to purchase fuel and pay vendors so far this year, but since CUC operates without any appreciable working capital reserves, continuing to charge an

inadequate amount for fuel creates the potential for cash shortages, and by default fuel shortages, in the very near future," said Warren.

He said this situation was further complicated by CUC's billing lag, wherein charges for power consumed by cus-

tomers this month are not actually collected for about two and a half months.


Warren said that any continuing failure to fully collect oil costs at this point would cause an immediate and irreparable inability to pay for oil deliveries.

NMC CREES in Saturday's Marianas Agupa

This Saturday, Jan. 8, 2011, *Marianas Agupa* will feature Michael M. Ogo, aquaculture specialist, along with Jack Ogumoro, coordinator of the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council.


The show starts at 10am and airs until 11am on Magic 100.3 FM. Topic of discussion will be on upcoming aquaculture symposium and other CREES sponsored events this year.

The *Chamorro Talk Show Program* is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. Featured reports are as follows: World report by former mayor Joseph S. Inos followed by special report from Rota with correspondent and commentator Thomas D. Mendiola from Rota and a report from Tinian by correspondent and radio commentator with former Senator David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet via www.magic100radio.com will be available. (PR)




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New task force to tighten accounting of federal grants

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial named Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos as chairman of a newly-formed Federal Grants Assessment Task Force which seeks to fully account for all federal funds awarded to the CNMI but remain unused.

Today will be the first mandatory meeting of all executive branch departments and agencies receiving federal grants.

Besides Inos who is the chair, the task force is also co-chaired by Division of Environmental Quality director Frank Rabauliman, Criminal Justice and Planning Agency executive director Jerome Jerome, Emergency Management Office director Joaquin

Omar, and Office of Management and Budget's Virginia Villagomez.

"In order to effectively utilize and manage all federal grants which the CNMI Executive Branch receives, the Federal Grants Assessment Task Force is hereby formed," the governor said in a one-page directive issued on Tuesday, a copy of which was obtained yesterday.

Besides seeking to fully account for all awarded funds that remain unused, the task force's other goal is to collaborate and brainstorm as to how to effectively and fully use all grants awarded.

"All participants should work cooperatively and collaboratively with the co-chairs to ensure accurate assessments of

federal grants so the lieutenant governor and I are correctly informed and may take the appropriate necessary actions if any,"

Villagomez, Santos request for more time to file docs OK'd

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for Northern Marianas approved yesterday the request of former lieutenant governor Timothy Villagomez and the Santos couple—James and Joaquina—to have more time to prepare for their filings.

The federal court, through U.S. Attorney Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, issued the order in response to the motion filed by the three who sought an increase

time and to continue hearing of their case.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan earlier pointed out that the CNMI has millions of dol-

lars in capital improvement project funds and other federal grants that remain unused. He said this will make it harder for

Her husband is in jail in Atwater, California. Federal jurors pronounced the three guilty of all charges relating to a scheme to defraud the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. through needless purchases of a de-scaling chemical called Rydlyme.

In a two-page document released yesterday, the court said it agreed to the proposed amendment to the schedule.

"The government submits that the defendants' proposal is agreeable, and hereby requests that the Court amend the schedule accordingly. Although the government prefers to have a finalized transcript of the evidentiary hearing, having reviewed the draft transcript, the government believes it sufficient for purposes of drafting its opposition," the order stated. It added that the counsels for the gov-

ernment also understand that a short postponement will not jeopardize the ongoing matter.

For these reasons, the court extended the deadline of filing of opposition on Jan. 13, deadline for filing the defendants' optional reply to Jan. 17, while the hearing on the motion remain for Jan. 20.

Villagomez and the Santos couple filed on Dec. 23, a joint motion to be released on bail pending the conclusion of their appeal in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Based on the joint motion the defendants' lawyers said their clients pose no risk of flight or danger to the public if released pending appeal. They also pointed out that relevant precedent requires that they present a "fairly debatable" appellate question in order to secure a release order under the statute.

Rotary earns Honor Roll status from donation

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

For its DVD donation last year, the Saipan Rotary Club earned the Honor Roll status at DVDs-4Vets.

DVDs4Vets is a website that accepts new and used DVDs and portable DVD players as donations for military veterans in over 1,500 Veterans Affairs facilities.

During the Rotary Club's regular membership meeting yesterday, treasurer Victoria Concepcion said they received letters from DVDs4VETS and veterans facilities acknowledging their donation as well as appreciation.

Dr. Laurance Baschkin, executive director for DVDs4Vets, said the 1,000 donated DVDs will be distributed to multiple facilities such as hospitals and veterans centers throughout the United States.

"Your gift will be appreciated by those veterans who will have hours of entertainment as a result," he said.

Baschkin also encouraged the

Rotary to spread the word about their mission to other individuals and organizations.

"Your thoughtfulness reflects the concern that you feel for our Veterans and for the service they provided to all of us while in service to our country," wrote voluntary service assistant Kevin J. Riley on behalf of the St. Louis VAMC JC Division patients and staff.

"The commitment you have shown to our Veterans demonstrates your concern for America's heroes," said voluntary service officer Robert E. Davis of the VA Gulf Coast Veterans HCS in Mississippi.

Davis said the DVDs will be placed on their inpatient wards where veterans can view them.

Rotary president Glen Perez said the DVD donation was the idea of Rotarian Mike Tripp who moved to Canada last year.

"We try to give back to the community as much as we can," said Perez.

For more information about donating DVDs, visit www.dvds4vets.org.

US military supports creation of bottle recycling facility in Guam

SANTA RITA, Guam—Joint Region Marianas supports the Guam Beverage Container Recycling Act, Legislative Bill 149 (Public Law 30-221), which will create a bottle recycling program on Guam.

"I give my commitment to work toward the military's meaningful participation in the program," said Rear Adm. Paul Bushong, Commander, Joint Region Marianas. "Participation by

the base exchanges and commissaries requires a cooperative effort of various off-island military procurement offices. I will continue to work with these commands toward full participation."

Joint Region Marianas supports the efforts for a "One Guam, Green Guam."

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-3209. (PR)



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Land owner sues gov't; cries for fair, just compensation

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

A private land owner who is now residing in Arizona has sued the government for failing to provide her a fair and just compensation for the parcels of land acquired from her some 15 years ago.

Mary Ann Frink, represented by her counsel Lilian A. Tenorio, has filed at the U.S. District Court for the NMI a complaint against the CNMI government through its department of public lands and department of public works.

She sued the defendants for

breach of the promise to pay, for the unlawful taking of her property without compensation, for conversion, for unjust enrichment, and for declaratory relief. The plaintiff demands a jury trial of her complaint.

Frink is the owner of real property in San Vicente. The government certified the property for taking for purposes of a public roadway and utilities under the land compensation program effective August 2000.

Despite repeated promises that Frink would be compensated for her land, she said it has become clear that the govern-

ment will not honor its promise as evident by the many years she waited for its action.

Frink was born on Saipan and is a person of NMI descent and still owns real property in San Vicente.

Court documents revealed that Frink is the legal owner of 525 square meters of land in San Vicente along a road known as Nang Ocha Road. There were two actual takings of the property. The first came on March 24, 1976 and it encompassed 101 square meters. The remaining portion of 424 square meters was taken on May 1, 1995

when the CNMI government surveyed the roadway and expanded the right of way access.

On Aug. 26, 2005, Gov. Juan N. Babauta signed a letter to Frink acknowledging the two separate takings and forwarded the letter to the then Marianas Public Land Authority which is now the Department of Public Lands.

A preliminary notice and acquisition receipt for her land was received and done by all parties in November 2000.

The DPW's right of way branch was also acknowledged that an approved basic and severance map has been made and recorded. This completed

form was forwarded to the then MPLA on Aug. 30, 2005.

To this day, Frink's property continues to be used by the general public as a roadway and through which utilities are routed.

Based on DPL's records, the total land compensation due Frink as of Sept. 30, 2010 stands at approximately \$75,498.80.

Because of the government's inactions on her case, Frink has been deprived the use of her property and damages for well over a decade, while, at the same, DPL and DPW have benefited from the use of her property since at least 1976.

Frink, according to her complaint, suffered financial and emotional damages.

The plaintiff seeks judgment on her favor which will entitle her to fair and just compensation for the unlawful taking of her property without compensation in an amount equal to the valuation as of the date of taking, in an amount to be proven at trial.

She also seeks additional compensation for the government's use of the property, along with such additional and further damages as may be proven at trial resulting from the failure to pay compensation.

Frink also demands a pre-judgment interest, monetary, and post-judgment interest, reasonable attorney's fees, and for such other relief that the court may deem just and proper.

Company ordered to pay over \$11K to ex-worker

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor has found Sonic International, Inc. liable to pay liquidated damages on top of the unpaid settlement amount to its former employee.

Labor administrative hearing officer Jerry Cody ordered Sonic International to pay Maganiel S. Yunting the amount of \$5,642 that it failed to pay in installment plus another \$5,642 in liquidated damages on or before Jan. 16.

Cody issued the order on Dec. 30, 2010 following a hearing on Dec. 6 attended by Yunting, his counsel Edward Manibusan, and Sonic International president Ikuo Yoshizawa.

In June 2008, Yunting filed a

labor case against Sonic International, his former employer for alleged failure to pay wages amounting to \$11,043.84.

On Oct. 6, 2008, both parties entered into a stipulated settlement agreement wherein Sonic International, Inc. agreed to pay a total settlement of \$9,942 to Yunting under an installment payment schedule.

Sonic International agreed to pay \$1,000 on or before Oct. 17, 2008 and \$500 a month thereafter until settlement was paid in full.

Respondent made the initial settlement payment and monthly payments but fell behind in the scheduled monthly payments in 2009.

On June 17, 2010, the two parties entered into another agree-

ment wherein Yoshizawa agreed to resume installment payments at a lower rate of \$350.

Yoshizawa made three full payments from June to August 2010 but fell behind in payments once again, paying only \$200 in September and \$150 in October.

This prompted Yunting to apply for an Order to Show Cause with the Hearing Office on Nov. 12, 2010, requesting Cody to enforce the terms of the 2008 agreement as well as award liquidated damages.

Upon review, Cody found that Yunting is entitled to collect the "benefit of the bargain" which considered liquidated damages since Yoshizawa failed to comply with the payment terms of the 2008 agreement.

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Join us this **SATURDAY morning, JANUARY 8**, for a fun-filled walk with PSS!

LIVE HEALTHY:
Life Walk with PSS

Registration Information:

Saipan: 5:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Kagman Elementary School

Tinian: 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Tachog'na Beach

Rota: 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Téteto Beach

40 take part in Cervical Cancer Awareness Walk

PHOTOS AND TEXT By

CLARISSA V. DAVID

clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

About 40 individuals participated in the first Cervical Cancer Awareness Walk yesterday afternoon headed by the Department of Public Health Comprehensive Cancer Control Program and the Saipan Mayor's Office.

Joanne Ogo, DPH Comprehensive Cancer Control program coordinator, said the awareness walks is a collaborative effort among their partners, including the Commonwealth Cancer Association, the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services, Breast and Cervical Screening program, and other public health programs.

"Part of the committee's goal is not only to raise the level of awareness about cervical cancer and regular cervical screening but also to encourage the community



Staff of the Saipan Mayor's Office register for the Cervical Cancer Awareness Walk at the Oleai Pavilion yesterday afternoon.



Cervical Cancer Awareness Walk participants pose for a group photo before the walk yesterday afternoon.



Saipan Mayor's Office staff holds the Cervical Cancer Awareness Month banner as they led the walk yesterday afternoon from Oleai Pavilion to the old Japanese tank and back.



Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores joins the Cervical Cancer Awareness walk with his staff.



that a simple 30-minute walk is a starting point in changing into a healthy lifestyle," said Ogo.

The awareness walks every Wednesday for the month of January are part of the celebration of the Cervical Cancer Awareness Month proclaimed by Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores last Dec. 30.

Participants walked from Oleai Pavilion down to the old Japanese tank across from Quartermaster Road and back and received healthy refreshments and a free shirt after the walk.

Flores, who participated in the awareness walk, told *Saipan Tribune* that they co-sponsored the walk to promote good health in the community.

"I'm concerned about the community. If we show concern, other people and families will be concerned, too. This way, we can avoid contracting cancer. Let's all help one another and live healthy," said the mayor.

The NMC-CREES Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program also set up an information booth at the Oleai Pavilion to educate participants about good nutrition and the free lessons they offer at the campus.

Nutrition educator Jonathan Kiyoshi said a combination of physical activity such as the walk and good nutrition are essential in lowering the risk of getting cancer and other diseases.

"Good nutrition provides a lot of anti-oxidants that fight cancer. A good balance diet lowers the risk of getting non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension," he said.

Joanne Ogo, Department of Public Health Comprehensive Cancer Control Program coordinator, and Polly Omechelang of the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services are all smiles as they prepare to hand out shirt tickets by the old Japanese tank.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 6, 1999

PSS to relocate students to DanDan

Close to 500 students from different schools are scheduled to be transferred to DanDan Elementary School next month. While transfer plans are made, it is not certain yet if the current funding of the Public School System will allow recruitment for this new school scheduled to be completed in February. "PSS is looking at its existing resources, like how the central office can help its administrative side. At this juncture, we are not in the position to certify bringing in teachers," said acting fiscal and budget officer William Matson.

Garment firms appeal labor cap

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said yesterday he will look into the request of garment manufacturers seeking exemption from a proposed legislation that will put a cap on the number of foreign workers that can be employed in the garment industry. The governor yesterday met with garment representatives who appealed to spare manufacturers from the measure since some members of the industry have already paid for fees that go along with the hiring of workers since last year. According to Tenorio, apparel makers are seeking to ease the restriction in fear that they would not be able to reimburse fees they paid for application and permits pending in the Department of Labor and Immigration once the law is put in place.

Jan. 6, 2000

Lack of funds snags streetnaming project—Heinz

Unavailability of funds amounting to \$800,000 to \$1 million, and not disagreement on proposals, is holding up construction of signposts and nameplates for the much-delayed Saipan street-naming project. But Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider, chair of the Saipan and Northern Island Legislative Delegation, said recommendations on the names of the streets will be taken up in the next Legislature in an amendment to the local law signed last year by the governor. "[The project] needs about \$800,000 to \$1 million to procure all signposts and signage. That's holding it up. We need to work together with the Governor's Office and the Mayor's office to start procuring those nameplates," he told reporters yesterday.

Inmates move to temporary prison facility

Some 20 inmates have been transferred to the new temporary prison facility in Susupe as part of the January 1999 consent decree between the Commonwealth government and the US Department of Justice. The temporary facility, which cost about \$3 million, was constructed to provide better shelter to prisoners who used to occupy the old typhoon house considered sub-standard and hazardous by federal authorities. The facility is equipped with airconditioning system, beds, visiting room, toilet and bathroom and dining area. "This is part of the consent decree. We are required to improve the facility for the health and safety of the inmates," said Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider, chair of the Prison Task Force.

Jan. 6, 2003

BOE approves hiring of 2 legal counsels

The Board of Education has approved the hiring of two legal counsels for the Public School System so it could address legal matters promptly. This came amid the impending departure from PSS of its long-time legal counsel, Timothy Connor. Connor's former assistant, Heather Kennedy, who has passed the CNMI bar exam, has assumed his place. Kennedy used to handle PSS' equal employment opportunity matters. She is set to present to the board in today's regular meeting some contractual issues relating to the employment of a second PSS lawyer.

Employer, workers, penalized for violating CNMI labor laws

The Department of Labor and Immigration has fined and banned an employer from hiring nonresident workers for three years following findings that she and four of her nonresidents workers engaged in an illegal business transaction three years ago. DOLI hearing officer Vincent Kaipat said in a recent administrative order that employer Mercelita L. Maglalang of defunct Taurus Auto Repair Shop, did not only employ workers but also made them her business partners. Seman said documents showed that Maglalang conspired with the four to reopen the auto repair shop in January 1999. The shop, first licensed to her husband Crescencio, had closed in January 1998.

IT&E upgrades quadruples peak load speed

IT&E completed the latest phase in its multi-million dollar Next Generation Network project for the CNMI and Guam that will upgrade existing infrastructure with over \$8 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The most recent work on the the Next Generation Network project quadrupled peak load speed between the islands of Saipan, Tinian, Rota and Guam from 2.5 Gbps to 10 Gbps through the combined efforts of trained IT&E technicians and specialists from Linthicum,

Maryland-based, Ciena.

All of the equipment needed for the upgrade arrived in Guam in October 2010, and the work on the latest phase of the project came to a close before the end of the year.

According to IT&E Senior Engineer of International Network Operations, Inos Yamada, work started on the project on Nov. 1, 2010 with site preparation handled by IT&E transmission technicians and installation upgrades carried out by Ciena personnel. The work on Guam was completed nearly three weeks later following an exten-

sive testing process.

The focus of the project then moved to Rota where preparation, installation, and testing was completed following three days of further joint efforts between IT&E and Ciena.

The project continued its northward progress to Tinian where the team of technicians worked through the Thanksgiving Day holiday to complete the next step in the inter-island upgrade. The final link in the Marianas chain was brought into the fold when work resumed on Saipan in December. The last remaining upgrade was

completed soon thereafter and the project officially came to a close on Dec. 18.

Yamada credited the IT&E team who had a hand in the project, including Jesse Miguel, Ray Quituqua, Ronnie Espina, Eric Barcinas, Edwin Flores, Ben Salas, Joe Guerrero, Ray Guerrero, Ed Javier, Frank Camacho, Dean Manahane, Raul Pascua, and Nick Carreon.

"I am proud of the time and effort our team put into getting the sites ready for the upgrade, getting the equipment to the sites on time, and accompanying the Ciena

techs," Yamada said.

Yamada said IT&E's team worked around the clock to prepare the sites, and that the dedication to the project paid off once Ciena's top engineers touched down in the Marianas to perform the upgrade and

cutover of existing traffic to the new OC-192 pipes.

For more information about IT&E's coverage and services, contact IT&E Customer Care at 682-4ITE (4483) at IT&E Customer Service on Middle Road. **(PR)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Transmission technicians Juan Manibusan and Ramir Deleon prepare IT&E's facility on Rota for the bandwidth upgrades in advance of the arrival of techs from Ciena.

Coast Guard supporting recovery of sunken drydock

GUAM—Guam Shipyard has finalized plans to recover the floating dry dock Machinist or "Big Blue," which took on water and became partially submerged Monday night.

The Coast Guard has established a unified command with Guam Environmental Protection Agency and Guam Shipyard to manage the recovery process.

Coast Guard Sector Guam reviewed the shipyard's plans, which outline the shipyard's commitment to work with oil recovery contractor Gresco under the supervision of the Coast Guard and Guam EPA, to prevent pollution spills during salvage operations associated with the recovery.

"The primary concerns at this point are the safety of responders and mitigating the pollution threat," said Capt. Thomas M. Sparks, commander of Sector Guam. "We are seeing cooperation between Guam Shipyard, Gresco, and Guam EPA in addressing these concerns."

Company officials reported no signs of petroleum leaking

from the dry dock's oil tanks after a team of divers conducted a survey of the vessel, and floating boom was deployed around the vessel as a precaution in case of a pollutant release, Tuesday. It is estimated that a potential 83,000 gallons of wastewater, a mixture of oil or diesel with water, could be aboard Big Blue. However, soundings of the tanks are being conducted to ascertain the actual amount in each tank.

Salvage operations to remove all the wastewater from the vessel and re-float the dry dock are expected to proceed this week.

"Guam Shipyard is working with the U.S. Coast Guard to ensure that all the diesel and waste oil is safely removed prior to raising the dry dock Machinist," said Mathews Poten, President and CEO of Guam Shipyard. "Guam Shipyard has all the assets required to transfer

the diesel and waste oil thereby mitigating potential pollution."

The cause of the incident is currently under investigation.

The Coast Guard urges the public to report marine emergencies to the Coast Guard Sector Guam Command Center at 671-564-USCG.

For more information on this release, please contact Lt. j.g. Wade Thomson at 671-355-4821. **(PR)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEW GOP EXEC COMMITTEE

The NMI Republican Party recently has formed its new executive committee. The committee is tasked to consider and approve all prospective members of the GOP and to present its approved recommendations to the board of directors of the NMI GOP Central Executive Committee. In photo, counter clockwise, are Daniel Aquino, Jr., Juan I. Tenorio (GOP Chairman and non-voting member), John "Liling" S. Reyes, Arnold I. Palacios, Tom A. Tebuteb; Tony A. Benavente (GOP secretary), Lillian A. Bennett, and Joann P. Aquino.



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NOTICE OF APPLICATION

December 28, 2010

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. TAN HOLDINGS, INC.	12/09/10 SS-2005-X-071 (AMENDMENT)	PARKING EXTENSION	GARAPAN	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(12/14/10)*
2. HUANG SHUN CORPORATION	12/09/10 SMS-97-X-235 (AMENDMENT)	APARTMENT UNITS FORMER GRACE GARMENT FACTORY	SUSUPE	MAJOR SITING	APPROVED(12/20/10)*
3. OLIMP USA	12/20/10 SSm-2010-X-102	CARNIVAL RIDES	GARAPAN FISHING BASE	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(12/28/10)*
4. SAIPAN SUNSET CRUISE	12/22/10 SSm-2010-X-103	IN-WATER VESSEL	OUTER COVE MARINA CLUB	LAGOON & REEF APC	APPROVED(12/22/10)*
5. YM MICRONESIA	12/27/10 STRS/LRm-2010-X-104	FILMING SHORELINE & LAGOON AREAS	SAIPAN, TINIAN, & ROTA & LAGOON & REEF APC	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(11/28/10)*
6. SUCCESS INT'L. CORPORATION	12/24/10 SPIm-2010-X-105	AUTOSHOP	LOWER BASE	PORT & INDUSTRIAL APC	APPROVED(12/28/10)*
7. SAIPAN TV PRODUCTION	12/28/10 SSm-2010-X-106	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(12/28/10)*
8. GOOD DAY COORD.	12/28/10 SSm-2010-X-107	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(12/28/10)*

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP11-DOF/REV-019



SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 24, 2011 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"TECHNICAL TAX CONSULTING SERVICES FOR DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, DIVISION OF REVENUE & TAXATION OFFICE"


COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWERBASE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON **TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2011 AT 10:00 A.M.** AT THE DIVISION OF REVENUE AND TAXATION OFFICE IN THE JOETEN DANDAN COMMERCIAL BUILDING.


PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **ASUNCION S. AGULTO**
ACTING SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB11-DOF/REV-036



SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 19, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PRINTING OF THE CNMI 2010 INCOME TAX FORMS AND SUPPLEMENT INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DIVISION OF REVENUE & TAXATION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWERBASE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

SAMPLES OF FORMS (TAX YEAR 2009) ARE AVAILABLE FOR VENDOR'S REVIEW AT THE DIVISION OF REVENUE & TAXATION, CENTRAL OFFICE, DANDAN COMMERCIAL CENTER OR VIA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE'S WEBSITE AT <http://www.cnmidof.net/rev/forms.asp>.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **ASUNCION S. AGULTO**
ACTING SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB11-DOF/CSAP-037



SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 02, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"LEASE OF AN OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE SPACE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - DIVISION OF CUSTOMS SERVICE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D).

/s/ **ASUNCION S. AGULTO**
ACTING SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Diplomacy equals optimism over North Korea

If frequent-flier points convert to diplomatic progress, the endless tensions with North Korea might be reduced by a flurry of air travel. This week, U.S. special envoy to North Korea, Stephen Bosworth, will be in South Korea, China and Japan. His trip and others hint at a return by North Korea to six-party talks that stalled two years ago, when the government in Pyongyang walked away.

After a lethal 2010, in which a North Korean attack in March killed 46 South Korean sailors and the November shelling of Yeonpyeong Island killed two South Korean marines and two citizens, the interest of all parties in talks has spiked.

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson traveled to North Korea last month as a "private citizen" to hear what the regime of Kim Jong-il had in mind. Richardson reported the cloistered nation was open to the return of international atomic energy inspectors, the sale of spent nuclear fuel rods to South Korea, the creation of a joint military commission and installation of a hotline for emergency contact.

Bosworth's trip will be followed by a Jan. 14 meeting in Seoul between U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates and the South Korean defense minister.

All of the activity points toward Jan. 19 in Washington, when President Obama welcomes Chinese President Hu Jintao. The Obama administration is working the issue hard, prodding China to exert influence on its neighbor, promoting the resumption of talks between South Korea, North Korea, China, Japan and the U.S., and opening bilateral contacts with the North.

North Korea is so reliably erratic one wonders if revelations of enlightened self-interest are possible. China has already absorbed some 300,000 refugees. Each regional crisis is a distraction for a country with global ambitions. Yet China must be convinced the possibility of a unified Korea does not create a military vulnerability.

A month of intense diplomacy might yield historic change. Then again, it's North Korea.

(c) 2011, The Seattle Times.

BIPARTISAN DEFICIT COMMISSION

OUR RESOLUTION? TO MAKE REDUCTIONS!



The other side of the table

The unilateral 25 percent pay cut that many government employees are struggling with and the looming threat to reduce the workforce has caused many government workers to evaluate their employment options by looking for work in the private sector or moving to another location. It's important to polish up that resume and start thinking about the questions you might be asked in an interview. However, the interviewer's last question is often the most important one. If you've been job hunting, you know that after the interviewers ask all their questions they will usually pause, smile and ask: "Now, do you have any questions that you'd like to ask us?"

This is not just a courtesy question, but an opportunity for you to set yourself apart from the other applicants and demonstrate to those who are evaluating you that you have done your due diligence and want to know more about the position and the organization. It's also a chance to turn the table around and ask some penetrating questions that will help reveal the type of people you may be working with and determine if the company meets your standards. Asking nothing may cause the interviewer to lose confidence in you and feel like you aren't interested enough in the position to ask good questions.

Most organizations approach an interview without realizing that an applicant may have numerous other options, or she has just interviewed with a really exciting company and this interview is just a backup plan in case the other job doesn't pan out. Realize that the interview is a two-way interaction where the interviewee is also trying to evaluate whether a particular organization is a good fit for him or her. How a potential employer conducts the interview and answers the questions may cause those being interviewed to get excited about working with a company, or scratch them off their list and keep their current job or continue their job search. Just because an employer holds the upper hand doesn't mean that they control all the cards.

In one job interview, I was asked at the conclusion if I had any questions. I wanted to use this time to learn more about the company, so I asked: "From your perspective, what do you feel are the greatest challenges facing this organization?"

The group sat looking at me with a blank stare, so I rephrased the question by sharing some of the most pressing challenges I perceived. After a moment, one of the individuals informed me that my question was not appropriate, because it was a question that they should be asking me. I was shocked by the response. She continued by lecturing me that I should ask questions like, "when will I

By RIK VILLEGAS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a writer, marketing consultant and business instructor at Northern Marianas College. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at <http://rikv.blogspot.com>.



know if I am selected?" At this point I was trying to keep a straight face. Not one person who was interviewing me would answer the question, and I was even told by one individual that the company's challenges wouldn't be shared with me until I was hired. Wow! Remind me not to by a car from that person.

Okay, with one question failed, I came back with a second question: "What is the vision for the future of the company?" After another long, uncomfortable pause, one of them stated that the organization did have a vision and then gave me a generalized, platitudinous response that could have applied to practically any similar company. I was underwhelmed and decided not to pursue the question by asking what that meant. They were now batting with two strikes, so I decided to ask a simple question that just required a "yes" or "no" answer.

At least they didn't strike out, but they did fail my portion of the interview and left me with an empty feeling. If you're conducting an interview, make sure to take each question seriously. Unless it's confidential or proprietary, each question an interviewee asks deserves to be treated with respect by giving a thoughtful answer.

Career coach Robin Upton encourages candidates to ask two questions at the end of an interview: "Now that we have talked about my qualifications, do you have any concerns about me fulfilling the responsibilities of this position?" and "As my direct report in this position, what are the three priorities you would first like to see accomplished?"

As an employer, you can often learn more about a candidate from what they ask, versus what they answer. As a job seeker, doing some research on the company and position will open up many questions. Pick the most relevant that will help you both gain a better understanding and show your interest in the job. If you spend some time sitting on the other side of the table thinking about questions that would impress an employer and give you greater insight, it may transform you from a job seeker into a job getter.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Restraint—are you crazy?

I taught political science to AP students for years and that is exactly what I was trying to do with the delegate race and I proved my argument with pure facts. Moreover, the Japanese applied science to the Marianas and turned these islands into an economic boom! Science is on the leading edge of everything we do in our modern world, yet we are still playing popularity political games with our quality of life at stake—this is serious! Most of the people I meet on a daily basis appreciate what I’m trying to do yet there is a small group who seem to continue to refute pure scientific facts—the Cyber Rats. But I do want to thank the news media for creating this den as I often wondered who and where my real critics where and now I have them right between the cross hairs. It is like shooting fish in a barrel that can’t get away and they are too afraid to jump out in the public, besides some of the trash they are throwing around can’t be printed anyway as it is only fit for toilet wall laughs.

I just happen to know for a fact from my studies in political science that popularity novelties should never be the choice over pure science, especially when it comes to politics. I’m trying to show voters how to get out of this economic mess since no one else is trying because we certainly voted ourselves into this mess, which nobody can deny! If anyone has a better intellectual solution I am more than willing to listen—just keep in mind that we are now over seven years into an economic slump that is about to hit rock bottom. So time is a wasting and I’m seriously worried about the future of the CNMI like many others. I was trying to do something about it before its too late and if people don’t like it—that is their personal problem because they should be focusing on the big picture of the Commonwealth and their quality of life not me.

I’m focusing on the author who likes to write to me, not the general public and the Cyber Rats because they are an organized group who are clearly not working in the best interest of the CNMI. I see this organized group as truly being one of those subversive special interest groups our founders talked and warned about with their personal agenda(s), not the Commonwealth and it’s obvious from their comments. I don’t have to convince or argue with people who have common sense but some people you just have to beat it into them figuratively and they don’t like that one bit so I can understand them yelling at me to restrain.

I do respect others opinions which is why I do not write ugly and none meaningful comments in the Cyber Den of the paper

but they don’t respect my opinion. I can also accept that voters didn’t want to forgive Mr. Babauta for his mistakes as governor even though he publicly apologized, they are human. But what does that say about the Catholic belief in forgiveness that is professed by an overwhelming majority of the voting population—see the problem with us not practicing what we are being taught! It was really an experience to talk with some voters who seem to think they had never done anything to be forgiven—so let her/him who has not sinned throw the first stone! Sometimes voting decisions are real tuff challenges like many decisions that jurors, judges, our leaders and others have to make on a daily basis. I just though voters could be more objective and make the hard choice and do what was best for the CNMI.

I have also noted that the 83 percent who did not vote for Mr. Babauta tells me there is a lot of education needed on the voting politics for Washington because it is not like voting for someone to be on our Capital Hill but the big hill in the major league. I just hope voters will learn their lesson this time to apply the science of politics when voting because we don’t have a lot of leaders with idealistic or perfect records to choose from and conducting popularity contest is not going get us in the playoffs in this real life game of politics figuratively speaking.

But when people start asking you to lighten up, you know you are hitting them hard and for the author of the letter asking me to restrain, he must be crazy! Does he know how many people read my last letters and tell me to please keep it up? Does he know that people are missing 16 hours from their paycheck every two weeks? Doesn’t he know our economy is on life support with no nurse watching the monitor and no doctors? Speaking of doctors, doesn’t he know the desperate situation we are in a CHC? Doesn’t he know people can no longer afford to pay their power bills and are moving in with relatives? It is for these reasons and many more that people keep telling me to keep it up and he has the nerve to try and hamper my efforts. I just happen to know that one person can make a difference but the Cyber Rats and people like him just don’t want it to be me—sad but the hard truth. This is serious stuff and this guy is asking me to restrain, people are suffering and he’s asking for restraint and explanations—duh!

I know my predictions are starting to get to some people because the truth hurts sometimes and it hurts to know that an outsider was right and they were wrong. The Cyber Rats and the

powers that be would rather see the CNMI go through the hell we are going through than let me get any credit and the proof is in the details of my predictions and our present predicament! My prediction about our economy crashing five years in advance is no joke and I’m sure people who are suffering don’t see this as being funning or entertaining like the author seems to think—sad.

No disrespect intended, but the author of the letter asking for restraint should know that if the local people had all the answers we wouldn’t be in this mess sir! You joined my nation for help and I just happen to know what is wrong. If I can trust me to teach your children how to take care of the Commonwealth when you are old, then certainly you and your Cyber Rat adult friends should have enough respect to listen without throwing rocks at me from the back of the class. The author also needs to learn how to write in pure English and not Chamorro-English because his letters sound like gibberish to many readers, not just me.

Learning is fun and so is teaching which is why I taught for almost a quarter of a century in elementary, junior high, high school and college. I do want to thank the author for making it fun again for me to write because writing about serious issues is sometimes not much fun at all. And to the people who think I’m mocking you, I am only mocking the ones who need mocking—if the shoe fits, then wear it because you are our biggest problem.

On a closing note, I want to thank all my family, friends, fellow citizens and students who wished me a happy 60th birthday and for your words of encouragement. I just want you and everyone to know while I can say it that eventually the work I have done will prevail in time. Like the people I have tried to model my life after (Gandhi, Dr. King, F. Douglass, Rev. Fields Jr., my Mother who opened the first school in Memphis for African-Americans with disabilities in the 1950s and others) were never fully recognized for what they had done to help people until they were dead and gone—I was never looking for any glory or recognition, just trying to make a difference. I know that many people have recognized that I am responding to a higher calling and but some people just don’t get it. But I have gotten a great deal of satisfaction in knowing that I did try my best to help the people of the CNMI and i did it my way not their way-ha ha!

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman

To move the islands forward finally

Once again all our lawmakers and leaders are faking and attempting to portray themselves as valuable, productive, and fruitful public servants with empathy and concern over their constituents. They think that with the New Year their embarrassing nonperformance, increased political bickering, childish mentality, lack of accomplishment, inept ideas, and futile existence is left behind with 2010 and in the past.

It is not! The New Year does not wash away ignorance and feeble minds. They are giving it all their effort to relay to the media that they have actually recalled and will now prioritize their obligation to serve their constituents—after one year of torture and six months broke. Their attempt to fix the financial situation is comparable to pouring salt on a child’s wound. They want us to believe they are genuinely concerned with the quality of our lives and not only theirs, which is why their biggest and only contribution in 2010 is the idea of casinos on Saipan (previously rejected by voters) that was supposed to be accompanied with

impaired judgments to support the casinos from the side effects of smoking pot (failed legislation).

Ironically, I am thankful for their failures. Had they achieved anything at all, imagine the increased chaos, social, and financial distress we would have to endure. Presently, our legislators’ biggest concern is Gov. Fitial’s failure to deliver his State of the Commonwealth Address during a joint session! They are not concerned with the overall failures of this administration, nor with the legislature itself and its phony existence. The current financial distress of the government, particularly the lack of cash for payroll, is not a pressing matter.

I cannot fathom how delivering the message in person can make any difference other than the satisfaction of a hurt pride, considering the contents of the SOCA—made available through a report instead. The state of the Commonwealth is in severe disarray, synonymous to the mindset of the chief and his men. What more do you want to hear! Do you really think his tune will be

different from the sheet music he provided? If we have not hit rock bottom yet it is probably because they are more akin to ocean bottom than land. He probably should have said we have not drowned yet still swimming or attempting to remain afloat rough waters. “Better Times” is nowhere in the future and “Letting It BE” will kill us instantaneously, 2010 clearly revealed that. The time has come for each one of you to initiate a positive trend of worthy acts that will have an advantageous impact on our community and the government too. Be the men that you are and stop hiding behind or using your political titles to circumvent the obviously deteriorated financial and economic situation we are in. Do something, stop dreaming about it, unless you are all just as clueless as the next man beside you. Unfortunately, ignorance is bliss

Karla C. Mareham
Chalan Kanoa

The need for a CPI study on Tinian and Rota

The article written by Ms. Gemma Casas, *Marianas Variety* News Staff, ref to “Commerce preparing Rota’s CPI.” Since 2005, I have raised the same concerns to then Commerce Secretary James Santos and NAP administrator Walter Macaranas on the same issues. Region IX out of San Francisco has hinted the CNMI to conduct the CPI study for both islands of Rota and Tinian. These concerns were raised by the clients of the man’amko from both islands, they have been complaining since 2005, they have made comparison that a family of five on Saipan with \$500 worth of food stamps when shopping will come out of the store with at least five shopping bags, unlike on Rota or Tinian with the same amount when shopping will come out of the store with less than three shopping bags.

I commend the efforts of the Department of Commerce and

I hope that they will include Tinian in this study. According to Region IX, because of the previous years, the CNMI has been receiving its federal grants such as Food Stamp, and any other federal grants that provide services and programs for Department (office on Aging, DLNR, DPW, etc.) under one bulk of funds. The funds are then distributed to each respective island base on the size of the programs. With the Consumer Price Index (CPI) study, this will definitely help our people and the programs and services being funded by Uncle Sam. I encourage all Programs Managers that when applying for a federal grants to emphasize that the CNMI is divided by three islands, that the cost of living for each island is not the same; the price of gasoline is not the same. Our people in Rota and Tinian are far more being ignored with this issues.






FYI, even the federal government recognizes that the cost of living allowance (COLA) is way too high here in the CNMI. Why do you think that the federal employees gets additional 25 percent COLA on top of their good paying salaries? While the income bracket for food stamp recipients (eligibility) remains the same for over 25 years? The federal government is taking advantage on this concerns, it is not their job to come up with a plan for the CNMI government to update these concerns. I encourage our department heads to work together and provide the necessary update so that our people can avail to all the services and programs that are available to them.

Rep. Joseph M. Palacios
17th CNMI Legislature

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲89 ▼77
Chuuk	Partly Sunny	▲84 ▼78
Pohnpei	Rain	▲86 ▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲85 ▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲84 ▼76

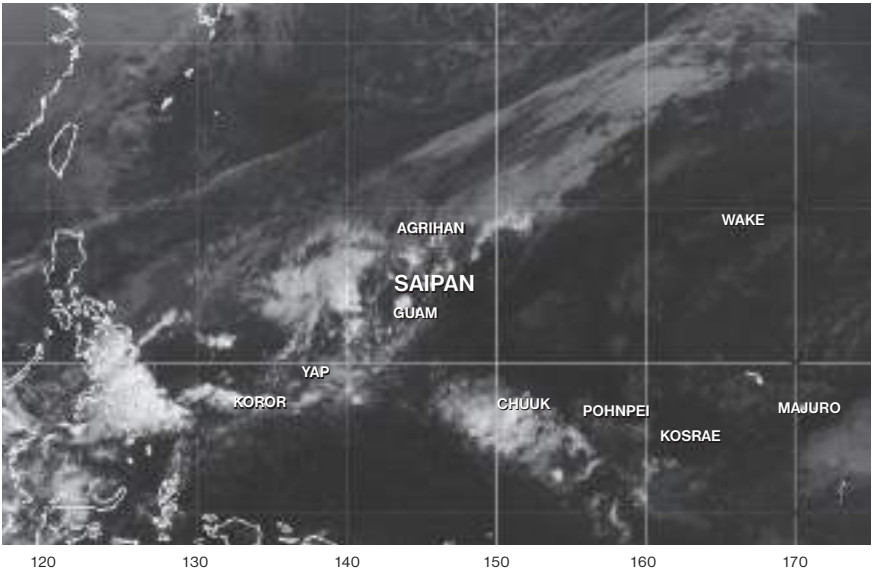
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲76 ▼68
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲32 ▼13
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲63 ▼44
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲77 ▼67
London	Rain	▲49 ▼37
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲66 ▼47
Manila	Thundershowers	▲79 ▼73
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲90 ▼66
Miami	Thundershowers	▲78 ▼51
New York	Cloudy	▲37 ▼30
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲42 ▼33
Paris	Showers	▲51 ▼45
Pusan	Sunny	▲40 ▼25
Rome	Showers	▲59 ▼49
Salem	Showers	▲49 ▼45
San Francisco	Sunny	▲60 ▼47
Seoul	Sunny	▲27 ▼11
Tokyo	Sunny	▲43 ▼33
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲41 ▼33

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
2:54 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet	
9:53 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
3:27 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet	
8:09 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from 25N159E to southeast of Minami Tori Shima at 23N157E then continues as a shear line through the northern cnmi at 17N146E to beyond 130E at 12N. Clouds and patchy rain are found within 400 miles of a line from 25N159E to 12N130E. A surface trough runs northward from 10N137E to merge with the shear line at 15N137E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms associated with the trough are found between the Marianas and Yap within 100 miles of a line from 7N141E to 15N140E. Convergent east winds are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms just west of Koror within 40 miles of a line from 8N130E to 8N135E. A second surface trough extends northwestward from 2N157E to end at 8N149E. Scattered showers are found near Chuuk or within 135 miles of the trough axis. A third surface trough reaches northeastward from EQ170E to 9N178E. Scattered showers are taking place over Butaritari Atoll and southeast of Majuro within 150 miles of a line from 3N172E to 7N177E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:45 AM	6:01 PM
Friday	6:45 AM	6:01 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Sunday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:03 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:54 AM	7:40 PM
Friday	8:35 AM	8:30 PM
Saturday	9:13 AM	9:17 PM
Sunday	9:48 AM	10:04 PM
Monday	10:23 AM	10:50 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

- CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Auto sales up for first time since recession

DETROIT (AP)—Auto sales rose in the United States last year for the first time since the recession. They're still far from what they were just a few years ago—but that's just fine with the downsized auto industry, which can post profits even if it sells millions fewer cars and trucks.

For the year, new car and truck sales came in at 11.6 million, up 11 percent from last year, automakers reported Tuesday. For December alone, sales were 1.14 million, also up 11 percent from a year earlier.

While the figures have some in the industry talking about a return to the glory days, it's a fragile idea. Rising gas prices or more economic trouble could still shake the confidence of American car buyers.

But for now, executives are optimistic about this year. Gen-

Insurers take on Toyota in acceleration lawsuits

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hundreds of disgruntled drivers have sued Toyota Motor Corp. over its sudden acceleration issues, hoping to get paid for their safety concerns with Toyota vehicles. The Japanese automaker now faces a more formidable opponent that legal experts say has plenty of time, money and resources to challenge it in court: insurance companies.

Seven insurers filed a lawsuit in Los Angeles last week, looking to recoup more than

\$230,000 to cover crashes blamed on sudden acceleration. Allstate Corp. also sued Toyota late last year.

While Toyota brushed off the latest litigation and said disputes between automakers and insurance companies are common, legal experts say the world's No. 1 automaker can't be pleased that it's squaring off against an industry that knows its way around a courtroom.

"This isn't David vs. Goliath," said Tom Baker, a professor at the University of

Pennsylvania Law School. "This has to be the worst news that the general counsel of Toyota has gotten in a while. If I'm Toyota and I see name-brand insurance companies suing me, I am definitely paying attention."

Working in favor of the insurance companies is an industry database that can give insurers information about accidents nationwide. That potentially damaging evidence could make its way into other lawsuits alleging Toyota is responsible for inju-

ries, deaths, and falling resale values on the more than 10 million vehicles Toyota has recalled since late 2009.

"Presumably they are going to bring in experts and resources on the questions that haven't been answered," said attorney Christine Spagnoli, who has won several multimillion-dollar verdicts against automakers over safety defects. "They made the decision to put in the investment to prove their case, so they must be convinced there is a viable claim."

years behind them. When the financial crisis hit in the fall of 2008, car sales plummeted. GM and Chrysler were on the brink of death, saved by a \$60 billion government bailout and speedy bankruptcies that helped both companies close plants and eliminate debt. Ford didn't declare bankruptcy or take a bailout, but it closed plants, laid off employees, and worked to lower its overall cost structure.

As a result, those companies can now make money even if sales hover below pre-recession levels.

Over the past two years, many Americans, even those who had enough money to buy a car during the recession, had been wary to commit to monthly car payments, so they put off making such a large purchase. Many opted to repair or make do with what they had.

The company lost nearly two percentage points of market share, slipping behind Ford to rank third in the U.S.

"We're coming off what was arguably the most challenging time in our 53-year history,"

says Don Esmond, senior vice president of Toyota's U.S. operations. He says he is optimistic that sales will rebound in 2011.

U.S. automakers are relieved to have the past two

the middle of the decade.

"The economic downturn has lasted quite a while," says Jessica Caldwell, director of pricing and analysis for consumer website Edmunds.com. "It's going to be slow and gradual rather than a fast bounceback."

Toyota was the only company that sold fewer cars and trucks than in 2009. The company was stung by sudden-acceleration recalls in early 2010 and never fully recovered despite luring buyers with generous incentives. Production problems at its San Antonio plant cut its supply of Tundra and Tacoma pickup trucks, and troubles importing the Prius hybrid also hurt sales.



In this Nov. 30, 2010 file photo, a row of 2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee's sit at a dealership in Mesa, Ariz. U.S. AP

Fed minutes: Economy needs bond-buying program

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve officials stuck with the pace of their \$600 billion Treasury bond-buying program last month because the economy wasn't improving fast enough to make a noticeable dent in unemployment.

Spending by consumers and businesses had improved heading into the final month of 2010, and Congress was on the verge of enacting a tax-cut package that would bolster the economy, Fed officials said. That made them more confident the economic recovery would gain momentum, according to minutes of the Fed's closed door meeting on Dec. 14.

Risks still loomed, the minutes said, particularly a weak housing market and spending cuts and layoffs from state and

local governments. So the Fed voted 10-1 to stick with its plan to buy the bonds through June to try to lower interest rates, spur spending and lift stock prices.

Still, with the economy gaining strength, the risks of deflation have "receded somewhat over recent months," the Fed minutes said. Deflation is a widespread drop in prices, wages and in the values of homes and stocks. A fear of deflation was one reason the Fed launched the bond-buying program.

With unemployment high and factories still operating well below capacity, "slack" in the economy will keep a lid on inflation, Fed officials said. Businesses have limited ability to increase the prices they

charge to customers, they said. And the weak labor market is limiting the power of workers to negotiate big wage gains, the minutes said.

Fed officials said they would regularly review the pace and the size of bond-buying program in the months ahead. The Fed left open the door to buying less if the economy strengthens more than expected, or buying more if it weakens.

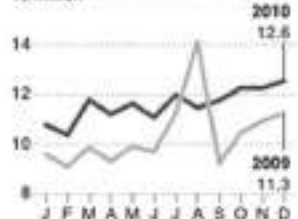
However, some officials "indicated that they had a fairly high threshold for making changes to the program," the minutes said. The minutes didn't identify who those officials were. The minutes usually provide a broad narrative of the Fed's closed-door deliberations, rather than specifics on views of individual Fed officials.

Auto sales roll into recovery

U.S. auto sales rose in 2010 and are expected to keep climbing as the economy recovers and buyers become more confident.

Total monthly vehicles sales
Seasonally adjusted annual rate

16 million



Change in total number of
vehicles sold in 2010 from
the previous year



SOURCE: Autodata Corp.

AP

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Unemployment rises in two-thirds of metro areas

WASHINGTON (AP)—Unemployment rates rose in more than two-thirds of the nation's largest metro areas in November, a sharp reversal from the previous month and the most since June. The Labor Department said Tuesday that unemployment rates rose in 258 of the 372 largest cities, fell in 88 and remained the same in 26. That's worse than the previous month, when rates fell in 200 areas and rose in 108. The economy is strengthening, but employers have been reluctant to create jobs. Hiring will pick up in 2011, but not enough to significantly lower the unemployment rate, economists forecast.

Gulf oil spill fund czar gets unlikely supporter

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A Louisiana attorney suing BP over the Gulf oil spill opposes a request by fellow plaintiffs attorneys to rein in compensation fund czar Ken Feinberg, saying Tuesday he believes Feinberg is doing a good job. Daniel Becnel, whose firm represents a number of people and businesses affected by the disaster, said in court papers that the claims

process would be slowed down if U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier intervenes. Among other things, the lead plaintiffs attorneys want changes made to a release form claimants must sign if they accept a final payment from Feinberg. They don't want those claimants to have to give up their rights to sue certain parties.

Vegas summit advocates return to horses as food

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The U.S. Bureau of Land Management chief blasted critics of the federal government's periodic wild horse roundups on Tuesday, calling the practice rare and necessary as he spoke at a horse slaughter summit in Las Vegas. The roundups, which are aimed at controlling the population of horses on federal rangelands in the West, have been deemed ineffective by advocates on both sides of the debate. Animal rights groups contend they are an inhumane solution and pro-slaughter proponents declare them a waste of public money. "These horses are part of our heritage," BLM chief Robert Abbey said to a room of more than 100 breeders, trainers and lawmakers. "Make no mistake, they deserve to be treated the best way that we can treat them."



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
11,691.18	1,270.20	2,681.25
+20.43	-1.69	-10.27
+0.18	-0.13%	-0.38%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms	Australian Dollar	0.9815	Indian Rupee	44.715	Singapore Dollar	1.2848
	British Pound	0.6452	Indonesian Rupiah	8987.5	South Korean Won	1126.25
	Canadian Dollar	0.9911	Japanese Yen	81.605	Swiss Franc	0.9365
	Chinese Yuan	6.607	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0638	Taiwan Dollar	29.097
	Euro	0.7506	New Zealand Dollar	1.2889	Thailand Baht	30.075

Nation

Texan declared innocent after 30 years in prison

DALLAS (AP)—A Texas man declared innocent Tuesday after 30 years in prison had at least two chances to make parole and be set free—if only he would admit he was a sex offender. But Cornelius Dupree Jr. refused to do so, doggedly maintaining his innocence in a 1979 rape and robbery, in the process serving more time for a crime he didn't commit than any other Texas inmate exonerated by DNA evidence.

"Whatever your truth is, you have to stick with it," Dupree, 51, said Tuesday, minutes after a Dallas judge overturned his conviction.

Nationally, only two others spent more time in prison, according to the Innocence Project, a New York legal center that specializes in wrongful conviction cases and represented Dupree. James Bain was wrongly imprisoned for 35 years in Florida, and Lawrence McKinney spent more than 31 years in a Tennessee prison.

Dupree was sentenced to 75 years in prison in 1980 for the rape and robbery of a 26-year-old Dallas woman a year earlier. He was released in July on mandatory supervision, and lived under house arrest until October. About a week after his release, DNA test results came back proving his innocence in the sexual assault.

A day after his release, Dupree married his fiancée, Selma. The couple met two decades ago while he was in prison. His exoneration hearing was delayed until Tuesday while authorities retested the DNA and made sure it was a match

to the victim. Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins supported Dupree's innocence claim.

Looking fit and trim in a dark suit, Dupree stood through most of the short hearing, until state district Judge Don Adams told him, "You're free to go." One of Dupree's lawyers, Innocence Project Co-Director Barry Scheck, called it "a glorious day."

"It's a joy to be free again," Dupree said.

This latest wait was nothing for Dupree, who was up for parole as recently as 2004. He was set to be released and thought he was going home, until he learned he first would have to attend a sex offender treatment program.

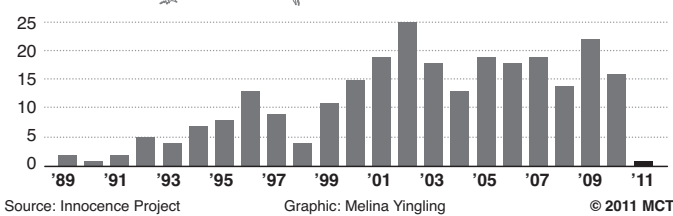
Those in the program had to go through what is known as

Proven innocent

Number of convicted people by state exonerated by DNA evidence:

1-5
6-10
11-19
20 or more

Exonerations in the U.S., by year



Source: Innocence Project

Graphic: Melina Yingling

© 2011 MCT

the "four R's." They are recognition, remorse, restitution and resolution, said Jim Shoemaker, who served two years with Dupree in the Boyd Unit south of

Dallas.

"He couldn't get past the first part," said Shoemaker, who drove up from Houston to attend Dupree's hearing.

Navy firing over videos raises questions of timing

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Navy brusquely fired the captain of the USS Enterprise on Tuesday, more than three years after he made lewd videos to boost morale for his crew, timing that put the military under pressure to explain why it acted only after the videos became public.

Senior military officials said they were trying to determine who among Navy leaders knew about the videos when they were shown repeatedly in 2006 and 2007 to thousands of crew members aboard the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

An investigation by U.S. Fleet Forces Command in Norfolk, Va., also is seeking to determine whether Capt. Owen Honors was reprimanded at the time.

The episode has raised serious questions about whether

military leaders can behave badly so long as the public doesn't find out.

"He showed bad judgment and he embarrassed the Navy. Those are things that are going to be hard for the Navy to ignore or to forgive," said Stephen Saltzburg, the general counsel of the National Institute of Military Justice and a law professor at George Washington University.

Just two days after the videos were shown repeatedly on television, the Navy called a news conference Tuesday in Norfolk to announce that Honors was stepping down as ship commander and being reassigned to administrative duties ashore.

"After personally reviewing the videos created while serving as executive officer, I have lost confidence in Capt. Honors' ability to lead effec-

Shoemaker said he spent years talking to Dupree in the prison recreation yard, and always believed his innocence.

"I got a lot of flak from the guys on the block," Shoemaker said. "But I always believed him. He has a quiet, peaceful demeanor."

Under Texas compensation laws for the wrongly imprisoned, Dupree is eligible for \$80,000 for each year he was behind bars, plus a lifetime annuity. He could receive \$2.4 million in a lump sum that is not subject to federal income tax.

The compensation law, the nation's most generous, was passed in 2009 by the Texas Legislature after dozens of wrongly convicted men were released from prison. Texas has freed 41 wrongly convicted inmates through DNA since 2001—more than any other state.



Cornelius Dupree Jr., center, raises his hands in celebration with his lawyer Nina Morrison, left, and attorney Barry Scheck in Dallas on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2011.

House GOP challenges Obama to join them

WASHINGTON (AP)—On the brink of power, House Republicans challenged President Barack Obama on Tuesday to join them in a drive to cut federal spending, ban earmarks for favored projects and overhaul the nation's tax code.

At the same time, incoming House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., conceded the new GOP majority intends to bypass its own new rules when it votes next week to wipe out the health care law approved by Democrats in 2010.

"We just need to repeal it," Cantor said of the effort to fulfill one of the party's main campaign promises from last fall.

Republicans, their ranks expanded by tea party-backed freshmen, take control of the House when the 112th Congress convenes at noon on Wednesday. One of the first orders of business will be the election of Ohio Republican John Boehner as speaker, replacing Democrat Nancy Pelosi.

In a celebratory mood, House Republicans met for nearly three hours during the day as they looked ahead to their two-year term of office. GOP freshmen have emphasized the need to reduce the deficit, but there are limits to how far the caucus is willing to go. Ten-year veteran Rep. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., said his colleagues defeated his proposal to use savings from spending cuts only for deficit reduction, as opposed to shifting some money to other government programs.

Across the Capitol, Democrats retained their majority in the November elections. But the 60 Senate seats they controlled two years ago—enough to push through much of Obama's agenda—will fall to 53.

That will make it harder to enact legislation Obama still seeks. But it gives them more than enough clout to block passage of bills like the health care repeal that House Repub-

licans desire.

Obama, speaking with reporters aboard Air Force One as he flew home from a year-end vacation in Hawaii, predicted Republicans would "play to their (political) base" initially.

He added, "But I'm pretty confident that they're going to recognize that our job is to govern and make sure that we are delivering jobs for the American people."

He said the two sides can build on the lame duck session of Congress in December, when they agreed on a compromise to prevent income taxes from rising, to extend unemployment benefits and to enact a Social Security tax cut that took effect on Saturday.

Cantor challenged and chided Obama by turn in a news conference in which he said the GOP envisions a "cut and grow majority" to reduce government spending and regulations and benefit the economy.

ACROSS THE NATION

Son of former Iranian shah found dead in Boston

BOSTON (AP)—The youngest son of the late shah of Iran was found dead Tuesday of an apparent suicide at his home in Boston, after he had "struggled for years to overcome his sorrow," his brother said. "Once again, we are joined with mothers, father and relatives of so many victims of these dark times for our country," the shah's oldest son, Reza Pahlavi, wrote on his website in announcing the death of his brother, Ali-reza Pahlavi. Pahlavi, 44, died from a gunshot wound that apparently was self-inflicted, said Jake Wark, a spokesman for the Suffolk district attorney's office.

Mega Millions jackpot payoff reaches \$355 million

PHOENIX (AP)—Thousands of people lined up in 41 states and in Washington, D.C., ahead of the Mega Millions drawing on Tuesday in hopes of buying the winning ticket for the lottery game's \$355 million jackpot. The prize is the fourth largest in U.S. history and the second

largest in Mega Millions history, said Arizona Lottery spokeswoman Cindy Esquer. The lottery's prize of \$390 million in March 2007 remains the nation's richest on record. "We got a pretty good, steady flow of traffic as far as buying the tickets goes," said Bill Evans, owner of Beaver Dam Service Station in northwest Arizona. "As the day progresses we'll have a line out the door, I'm sure."

Animal fat leaks into Houston Ship Channel

HOUSTON (AP)—Part of the Houston Ship Channel was closed Tuesday after about 15,000 gallons of animal fat leaked into it from a shore-based storage tank. About 250,000 gallons of animal fat spilled from the tank, with about 15,000 entering the Houston Ship Channel through a storm drain, the U.S. Coast Guard said. The Coast Guard said the cause of the leak was being investigated. About three-quarters of a mile of the channel, most of the northern portion, was closed.

Nation

Australian city cut off by floods braces for more

ROCKHAMPTON, Australia (AP)—Weary residents of a flooded Australian coastal city braced for water levels to peak Wednesday, as state officials held an emergency meeting to help determine recovery plans for the 200,000 people affected by the deluge.

More than a week of pounding rains has left much of north-eastern Australia under a sea of muddy water that is making its way through river systems toward the ocean.

The swollen Fitzroy River was expected to reach the second-highest level on record Wednesday in the largest affected community of Rockhampton before finally beginning to subside. Local media reports have said that 400 homes may be inundated, and the river could remain above flood levels for at least a week.

The Fitzroy has already spilled over its banks, inundating houses and businesses in Rockhampton in waters covering the city streets ranging from

a few inches (centimeters) to waist-deep. Up to 500 people who live along the river have evacuated their homes. Air and rail links to the city of 75,000 people were cut and only one main road remained open.

The flooding was already having an impact on Queensland's economy, ruining crops and closing most mines.

Floodwaters had made it impossible for 40 of the state's coal mines to operate, ministers said at an emergency Cabinet meeting in the Queensland capital Brisbane on Wednesday.

"It's going to take some months for some mines to be back to full operation," Resources Minister Stephen Robertson said. "We earn 'round about AU\$100 million (\$100 million) a day exporting coal to the rest of the world and exports have been significantly restricted by the impact on infrastructure."

In other parts of the state, some flooded communities were beginning to dry out. In



In this Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2011 photo, floodwaters are seen in the Depot Hill district of Rockhampton, Australia.

the town of Theodore, which evacuated all 300 residents last week, specialists arrived in helicopters on Wednesday to check the safety of power, water and

sewage plants, county Mayor John Hooper said.

Officials were still trying to determine when it would be safe to allow residents to return. One problem: an influx of venomous snakes, flushed from their

habitats and searching for dry ground amid the waters.

"I'm hearing stories that it is bad," Hooper said. "And I've been told they're (the snakes) bloody angry, so people will have to be very careful."

Rockhampton residents have also reported seeing higher than usual numbers of snakes, Rockhampton Mayor Brad Carter said. Saltwater crocodiles were another worry for people entering floodwaters, as the predators have been spotted from time to time in the Fitzroy River, Carter said.

"There's a lot of snakes—and I mean a lot," Rockhampton resident Shane Muirhead told Australian Broadcasting Corp. "Like, every hundred yards (91 meters) you will see a snake, and they're just everywhere."

A total of 22 cities and towns in Queensland have been swamped by floods that began building just before Christmas—the worst effects of an unusually wet summer in the tropical region. Swollen rivers and flooding have killed 10 people in Queensland since late November, police say.

Officials have said the flooded area covers the size of France and Germany combined and 200,000 people have been affected.

PH raid captures communist rebel commander

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine troops and police captured a senior communist rebel commander, officials said Wednesday as a 19-day Christmas truce ended this week with both sides vowing to step up fighting.

Tirso Alcantara, the rebel New People's Army commander responsible for the main island of Luzon, was wounded when he tried to draw his gun as special army troops backed by police raided a village south of the capital late Tuesday, said army chief Lt. Gen. Arturo Ortiz.

Alcantara, also known by his nom de guerre Comrade Bart, is one of the highest-ranking members of the underground Communist Party of the Philippines to be arrested recently, even though the guerrillas and the government earlier agreed to resume stalled peace talks in February on ending the 42-year insurgency.

Military spokesman Col. Gen-eroso Bolina said troops were

tipped off that Alcantara was in a house outside Lucena City, but when they arrived he had already escaped by motorcycle. They chased him down and caught up with him and his accomplice at a road checkpoint, he said.

Government negotiators have expressed hope that last year's election of reformist President Benigno Aquino III on the promise he would reduce poverty and improve governance would soften the rural-based Marxist insurgency, one of Asia's longest that has survived decades of military crackdown.

Both sides implemented a cease-fire over the Christmas holidays that lasted 19 days, the longest truce in a decade.

According to the military, battle setbacks, surrenders, infighting and loss of foreign support have reduced the guerrilla force to less than 5,000 from a peak of 25,000 in the 1980s, during the reign of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

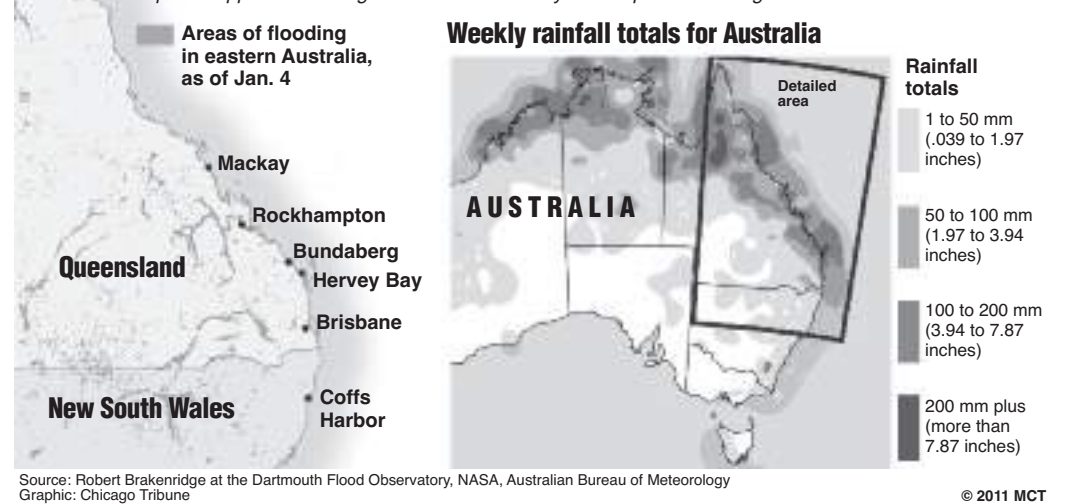
From their jungle camps, the rebels have carried out hit-and-run ambushes. They operate a shadow government in areas under their influence, dispensing justice including trials—and sometimes executions—of erring policemen and village officials. They also collect "revolutionary taxes"—and punish businesses refusing to pay.

The government blames the rebellion for stunting economic development through extortion and attacks. The U.S. and European Union have blacklisted the guerrillas as a terrorist organization, a stumbling block that led to the 2004 breakdown in Norwegian-brokered talks.

Quezon provincial police chief Ericson Velasquez said Alcantara used to be a spokesman for a rebel unit that had successfully hit government troops and seized several soldiers, then was promoted as the head of the Communist Party organ giving political guidance to the NPA.

Underwater Down Under

Recent floods have affected hundreds of thousands of people in Australia's Queensland state. The city of Rockhampton is all but inaccessible, with the closure of major roads and the local airport. Supplies are being flown north of the city with hopes of trucking them in from there.



Source: Robert Brakenridge at the Dartmouth Flood Observatory, NASA, Australian Bureau of Meteorology
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

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Pakistani governor who opposed blasphemy law slain

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The governor of Pakistan's most dominant province was shot and killed Tuesday by a bodyguard who authorities said was angry about his opposition to blasphemy laws carrying the death sentence for insulting the Muslim faith.

Punjab Gov. Salman Taseer, regarded as a moderate voice in a country increasingly beset by zealotry, was a close ally of U.S.-backed President Asif Ali Zardari. He is the highest-profile Pakistani political figure to be assassinated since former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto three years ago, and his death underscores the growing danger in this country to those who dare challenge the demands of Islamist extremists.

Taseer was riddled by gunshots while walking to his car after an afternoon meal at

Kohsar Market, a shopping center in Islamabad popular with Westerners and wealthy Pakistanis. He was shot in the back, said Shaukat Kayani, a doctor at Poly Clinic Hospital.

Initial reports indicated the suspected gunman, a police commando guarding Taseer, unloaded up to 26 rounds from a Kalashnikov automatic rifle. The gunman could have fired that number of rounds in a matter of seconds.

Other guards then forced the police commando to the ground, according to police and hospital officials.

"It was one shot first and then a burst," said R.A. Khan, a witness who was drinking coffee at the time. "I rushed and saw policemen over another police commando, who was lying on the road with his face down."

An intelligence official inter-

rogating the suspect said the commando had been planning the assassination since learning three days ago that he would be deployed with the governor. Police were trying to determine how he was assigned to Taseer's security detail Tuesday and whether he'd had any help.

Taseer's admirers called the governor a profile in courage in a fight for the soul of Pakistan, which in recent years has increasingly swung away from South Asia's Sufi-influenced moderation to the more fundamentalist approaches to Islam found in some areas of the Middle East.

"Taseer showed himself to be a rare politician, willing to risk his life in espousing an unambiguous position against discrimination and abuse," said Ali Dayan Hasan, senior South Asia researcher for Human Rights Watch.

ASIAN BRIEFS

US envoy praises coordination with South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A senior U.S. envoy said Wednesday that Seoul and Washington were closely coordinating their policies over North Korea amid tension following the North's deadly artillery attack on a front-line South Korean island. Stephen Bosworth held separate talks with the foreign minister and with Seoul's top envoy on North Korean nuclear matters. Details of the two meetings were not immediately available.

3 Chinese police officers killed in rare shootout

BEIJING (AP)—A pair of murder suspects killed three police officers in a shootout after going on a carjacking spree in eastern China,

a news report said Wednesday, a rare case of gun violence in a country where private firearms ownership is illegal. Two civilians and four police officers were also wounded in the shootout in Tai'an city in the eastern coastal province of Shandong.

Giant tuna fetches record \$396,000 in Tokyo

TOKYO (AP)—A giant bluefin tuna fetched a record 32.49 million yen, or nearly \$396,000, in the first auction of the year at the world's largest wholesale fish market in Japan. The price for the 754-pound (342-kilogram) tuna beat the previous record set in 2001 when a 445-pound (202-kilogram) fish sold for 20.2 million yen at Tokyo's Tsukiji market.

World

Anti-Christian drumbeat loud before Egypt attack

CAIRO (AP)—In the weeks before the New Year's Day suicide bombing of an Egyptian church, al-Qaida-linked websites carried a how-to manual on "destroying the cross," complete with videos on how to build a bomb and the locations of churches to target—including the one that was attacked.

They may have found a receptive audience in Alexandria, where increasingly radicalized Islamic hard-liners have been holding weekly anti-Christian demonstrations, filled with venomous slogans against the minority community.

The blast, which struck Saturday as worshippers were leaving midnight Mass at the Mediterranean city's Saints Church, killed 21 people.

President Hosni Mubarak has accused foreign groups of being behind the attack, which has sparked a wave of angry protests by Christians in Egypt.

But on the ground, investigators are searching in a different direction—scrutinizing home-grown hard-liners, known as Salafis, and the possibility they were inspired by al-Qaida.

Only two or three days before Saturday's bombing, police arrested several Salafis spreading fliers in Alexandria calling for violence against Christians, a security official said. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

According to authorities, the strong belief among investigators is that local extremists who knew the area and the nature of their target were behind the blast. The Egyptian weekly Al-Youm Al-Saba said police were examining photos of the Salafis' weekly protests for suspects.

In the weeks before the attack, al-Qaida militants on the Web spewing calls for "jihad," or holy war, on Egypt's Christians laid out everything anyone would need to carry out a bombing.

One widely circulated posting includes a so-called "Jihadi Encyclopedia for the Destruction of the Cross," with a series of 10 videos describing how to build a bomb.

In the videos, an unidenti-



In this Nov. 5, 2010 file photo, hundreds of Egyptian Muslims gather following prayers outside Ibrahim Mosque in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria, Egypt, protesting against what they allege was Egypt's Coptic Church holding two women captive for converting to Islam.

Europe ups security for Copts amid online threats

CHATENAY-MALABRY, France (AP)—Christian Copts in Europe are under tougher new police protection following Internet threats against their European places of worship, even as some prepare special services in honor of the 21 Copts killed in a weekend massacre at a church in their Egyptian homeland.

Police in France, Germany, the Netherlands and other countries have increased surveillance of Orthodox Coptic Christian churches. In Italy, Copts have asked for special protection. And in Chatenay-Malabry, just outside Paris, metal barricades surround the church of St. Mary and St. Mark—a vivid sign of the fear that has been injected into the Copts' season of peace.

The Copts—Orthodox Christians from Egypt—will celebrate Christmas on Thursday.

A suicide bomber blew himself up Saturday as worshippers filed out of Saints

Church in Alexandria, Egypt, after midnight Mass. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Tens of thousands of Copts live in Europe, and community leaders fear the attacks will not be limited to the Middle East.

"This threat is serious for us. People are afraid," Pastor Arsenious El Baramousy, head of the Coptic church in Amsterdam, said in a telephone interview Tuesday. "What happened in Alexandria could happen in Amsterdam."

It was not immediately clear how many threats against European Copts had been posted online, and when.

However, German authorities learned of a threat a week before the Alexandria attack. A spokeswoman for Germany's Federal Criminal Office said the office sent out a letter Dec. 24 to all state criminal offices in the country warning them about online threats against

Coptic communities and churches in Germany, where about 6,000 Copts live.

The spokeswoman, who declined to give her name in keeping with department policy, said investigators for the Federal Criminal Office had seen the threat on a Web site. Though the threat was general, Germany was mentioned, she said.

On Dec. 31, four hours before the attack in Egypt, the head of the Coptic community in Germany, Bishop Anba Damian, sent a letter to the Interior Ministry expressing the community's fear of terror attacks and seeking protection ahead of the Orthodox Christmas celebrations Thursday and Friday.

Edmond Messchaert, spokesman for the Dutch National Coordinator for Counterterrorism, said police have been alerted to Internet threats against Coptic churches in the Netherlands.

fied militant in a white lab coat and a black mask is shown listing the ingredients to make TNT and mixing up the chemicals in beakers.

The site lists Coptic Christian churches in Egypt, along with phone numbers and addresses—including Alexandria's Saints Church. "Blow up the churches while they are celebrating Christmas or any other time when the churches are packed," it says.

Security officials say they

were aware of the online "how-to manual" before the church bombing and are examining any links between it and the material posted on Islamic websites.

One main Salafi group, the Salafi Movement in Alexandria, issued a statement condemning the bombing, saying its preachings "reject such practices."

The ultra-conservative Salafi ideology has been gaining followers throughout Egypt in recent years, preaching a return to the ways of early Muslims. It calls for strict segregation of the sexes and rejection of any religious "innovations," such as permitting boys and girls to attend school together or collecting interest on bank loans.

The movement has spread across class lines, among wealthy businessmen, the middle class and urban poor. Men grow long beards and shave off mustaches, to imitate the Prophet Muhammad. Women wear the black niqab robes and veil, which envelop the entire body and face, showing only the eyes.

In many ways, it resembles the doctrine of al-Qaida, with one major difference—while it advocates jihad against "foreign occupiers" in Iraq or Afghanistan, it rejects holy war inside Egypt, at least for now.

But many observers warn that some members are growing more radicalized and have begun to advocate jihad within the country, providing fertile ground for al-Qaida influence.

WORLD BRIEFS

Haiti presidential runoff 'impossible' this month

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—A second-round vote to choose Haiti's president will not be possible until late February, after the constitutional end of current President Rene Preval's term, an electoral council spokesman said Tuesday. The two-candidate runoff is supposed to be held Jan. 16. But results have not been finalized from the Nov. 28 first round that was criticized for low turnout, disorganization, fraud, violence and voter intimidation.

Gunmen kill 3 in Mexico, including 13-year-old boy

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP)—Gunmen opened fire on people gathered at a street corner in the northern city of Monterrey, killing two adults and a 13-year-old boy, authorities said Tuesday. The boy's twin brother and two men were wounded in the attack Monday

night, the Nuevo Leon state attorney general's office said. Authorities had no immediate suspects. While the motive was unclear, Mexican drug cartels have recruiting younger and younger members

Security forces kill 1 in Ivory Coast attack

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—The head of the U.N.'s human rights office in Ivory Coast says at least one person was killed and as many as 130 arrested during an early morning raid on the headquarters of a party allied with the internationally recognized winner of last month's presidential election. U.N. Human Rights Division Director Simon Munzu says he and his staff were barred from entering the building belonging to the party of Henri Konan Bedie on Tuesday hours after the shootout. Witnesses say security forces opened fire with automatic weapons for at least 20 minutes at around 5:30 a.m.

Chavez scraps university law, planned tax hike

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said Tuesday that he is scrapping plans for a tax increase and will veto a controversial law that critics argued would have dramatically increased government control of universities.

The announcements came the night before a new National Assembly takes office with a larger opposition contingent, and amid criticism that Chavez used the outgoing legislature in its final

weeks to concentrate his powers and gain new abilities to crack down on dissent.

Chavez said during a televised Cabinet meeting that the law on universities passed by his congressional allies had some weaknesses and he will veto it. He said his willingness to veto the measure after widespread criticism shows Venezuela has a democratic government that "listens and is willing to rectify."

The law on universities was one in a series of measures approved in December by the previous National Assembly, under the overwhelming control of Chavez loyalists. Thousands of students protested in the streets after its approval, saying the law would give too much power to Chavez's education minister and increase controls on universities that have been a bastion of opposition to the president.

Chavez and his allies had ar-

gued the law was aimed at making the university system more democratic and inclusive. The leftist leader said Tuesday that he still sees a need for changes in Venezuela's autonomous state universities and supports further debate on how to proceed.

Chavez also announced that he no longer sees a need to raise the value-added tax, an idea he had proposed as a way to help fund reconstruction efforts after severe floods and mudslides.

Environment

Obama signs law making the CNMI eligible for anti-pollution funding



The CNMI is now eligible for federal funds to combat air pollution from diesel engines after President Obama yesterday signed the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act of 2010.

WASHINGTON, DC—President Obama yesterday signed the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act of 2010, making the Northern Mariana Islands eligible for federal funds to combat air pollution from diesel engines.

“This is another example of a program the Northern Marianas was left out of over the years without representation,” said Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan. “Now we are included.”

“I expect much of my work for many years to come will be finding programs where the Northern Marianas was excluded—and fixing that inequity,” the Congressman added.

Sablan has been working on getting into the diesel emissions program for almost two years. He introduced H.R. 2386, making the NMI eligible for the program’s grants to reduce air pollution from diesel engines, in May 2009. His provision was later made part of the American Clean Energy and Security

Act, H.R. 2454, which the House of Representatives passed in July of that year. But that bill bogged down in the Senate.

In the lame duck session of Congress last month, however, the Senate took up a separate bill reauthorizing the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act through 2016, and agreed to add the Northern Marianas and the other U.S. territories to the program.

The bill then returned to the House, winning approval by voice vote on December 21st.

“This legislation was also a good example of the need to be persistent and always on the lookout for legislation that can accomplish your goals,” Sablan explained. “Most stand-alone bills are never passed, so you have to find a vehicle for your legislative proposals and hitch a ride.”

The Diesel Emission Reduction Act is administered by the Environmental Protection Agency. Funds are used to reduce

airborne pollution from vehicles, boats, and stationary diesel engines.

Under terms of the law the President signed yesterday, Puerto Rico with its four million people will receive a full state-share of formula funding, and the four smaller insular areas with about 400,000 people will also receive a state-share, divided equally among them.

In addition, businesses and non-profits will have access to competitive grants and loans from the Environmental Protection Agency to reduce diesel pollution.

The typical annual appropriation for the DERA program has been \$60 million, of which base funding for the NMI would be about \$80,000.

“Inclusion in the diesel emissions program is a significant environmental accomplishment,” Sablan said.

“A clean environment is critical to our tourism and to the health of all of us who live in the Marianas.” **(PR)**

Study tracks turtles journey across South Atlantic



A leatherback sea turtle with a World Wildlife Fund tracking outfit. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

By SYLVIA HUI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP)—Leatherback turtles swim for thousands of miles across the South Atlantic to get to their feeding grounds, a trip that takes some of them 150 days to complete, researchers said Wednesday.

The findings are important for conservationists looking to protect the turtles from threats such as fishing nets and hooks, which have been blamed for the dramatically depleted population of leatherbacks in the Pacific Ocean, researchers said.

“All of the routes we’ve identified take the leatherbacks through areas of high risk from fisheries, so there’s a very real danger to the Atlantic population,” said Brendan Godley, a professor in conservation biology at the University of Exeter.

The five-year study followed the movement of female turtles from the world’s largest breeding colony in Gabon, central Africa, as they swam to feeding grounds across the South Atlantic. Once the turtles reach a food-rich habitat, they will stay there for up to five years to build up reserves to reproduce and return to Gabon once they are ready to mate again.

Researchers attached electronic satellite tracking equipment to the backs of 25 female turtles, as they finished nesting on beaches and were returning to the sea.

One female was tracked making a 7,563 kilometer (4,699 mile) journey

traveling in a straight line across the South Atlantic from Africa to South America, said Matthew Witt, a marine biologist who took part in the study. At a pace of 50 kilometers a day, that trip took about 150 days of consistent swimming, he said.

“Despite extensive research carried out on leatherbacks, no one has really been sure about the journeys they take in the South Atlantic until now,” Witt said. “From a human perspective, the South Atlantic is a vast, vast area. When challenged with that path, how is it that you can get across it and not get lost? I think that’s fantastic.”

The study identified three migratory routes, taking the turtles from Central Africa to Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina and down the coast off southern Africa. But why individual turtles choose one route over another remains one of the biggest questions in sea turtle biology, Witt said.

There are more leatherback turtles in the Atlantic than in the Pacific, where populations have declined dramatically over the past three decades. The exact cause of the dwindling numbers is not clear, although turtle egg harvesting, coastal net fishing and longline fishing have been blamed.

Witt said that the study helped identify 11 nations in the South Atlantic whose territorial waters the turtles pass through, and that those countries could take the lead on marine conservation efforts.

The research was published in the Proceedings of the Royal Society B on Wednesday.

Sharkwater on KSPN tonight

In light of proposed legislation that could help protect the CNMI’s shark population, KSPN Channel 2 will be showing the film *Sharkwater* tonight at 6:30pm without commercial interruption. The film was previously screened during the monthly “First Friday Film” event last August to capacity crowds at American Memorial Park.

Sharkwater, the winner of 31 international awards, is a film documenting the exploitation and corruption surrounding the world’s shark populations and the effect we are having on our ocean ecosystems by removing these top-level predators.

Through this documentary, director Rob Stewart seeks to debunk wide-spread stereotypes and media depictions of sharks and to detail their roles



as pillars in the evolution of the seas and corner stones to their continued health.

The film addresses how “these magnificent creatures have gone from predator to prey, and how despite surviving the earth’s history of mass extinctions, they could easily

be wiped out within a few years due to human greed.”

The CNMI Legislature is currently considering a ban on the practice of shark finning here in the islands. Stewart, the film’s director, plans to visit the CNMI in support of this legislation and in response to

Disney’s Oceans to play for free tomorrow

Tomorrow, First Friday Films is screening the DisneyNature film *Oceans* at 6:30pm in the American Memorial Park Visitors center.

Stunningly shot, this wonderful family film depicts the mysteries and wonders of our oceans, including many never before seen images.

First Friday Films is a monthly film series brought to you through a partnership with the National Park Service and the Division of Environmental Quality, with generous support from community groups such as the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance.

The Pacific Historic Parks (formerly the Arizona Memorial Museum Association) Bookstore, located inside the visitor’s center, will be open until 8:30pm. All proceeds go to community education programs.

For planning purposes, the movie runs about 80 minutes long. As always, First Friday



Films is free and open to the public. Find more information about the film at www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com. Subscribe to the blog for regular updates on upcoming events. **(PR)**

an invitation from San Vicente Elementary School teacher Kathy Pagapular’s 3rd grade class. After seeing *Sharkwa-*

ter, Pagapular’s students decided to write to Stewart about how the film inspired them to view sharks and conservation

in a new light.

The film will run from 6:30pm to 8pm between the evening news programs. **(PR)**

Life & Style

OJ co-defendant takes plea deal in Las Vegas heist

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A one-time O.J. Simpson golfing buddy whose conviction in their 2007 armed robbery and kidnapping case was overturned in October took a plea deal Tuesday to be freed from prison and avoid a retrial.

Clarence “C.J.” Stewart, 56, stood in shackles before

a Nevada judge and pleaded an equivalent of no contest to felony robbery and conspiracy. The so-called Alford plea didn’t admit guilt, but acknowledged that prosecutors could prove their case at trial.

“Mr. Stewart will be released after he pleads ... with the understanding and agreement that he

will begin house arrest,” his attorney Brent Bryson told the judge.

For his part, Stewart declared himself “guilty by way of the Alford plea.” He was released Tuesday evening, Bryson said.

Simpson is now the only person convicted in the case to remain in prison. Now 63, the pro football Hall of Famer is more than two

years into a nine- to 33-year sentence at Lovelock Correctional Center in northern Nevada.

Clark County District Court Judge Jackie Glass agreed Stewart can serve nine months of home detention in Louisiana to be near family members, if parole and probation officials in both states agree.

Stewart also faces an unspecified additional term of probation under terms of the plea deal worked out with prosecutors. Glass ordered Stewart released from the Clark County jail to house arrest in Las Vegas pending sentencing Jan. 11.

Clark County District Attorney David Roger said later he was satisfied the 27 months Stewart has served behind bars, plus the additional time restricted to home, was appropriate punishment for his role planning and taking part in the gunpoint robbery of two sports memorabilia dealers at a Las Vegas hotel.

“He was offered 30 months at the time of the trial. Another

nine months will take him to 36 months,” the prosecutor said outside court. “For his role, it’s a fair resolution.”

“Mr. Simpson was the main culprit who formulated the plan and was the person who wanted to steal this property,” Roger added.

Glass sentenced Stewart after trial to 7 1/2 to 27 years in prison.

Simpson always maintained he was only after family photos, heirlooms and mementos that had been stolen from him following his acquittal on criminal charges in Los Angeles in the 1994 slayings of his wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

Four other men, including two gunmen, who took part in the Las Vegas robbery in a room at the Palace Station pleaded guilty. They testified against Simpson and Stewart and received varying sentences of probation. A middleman who arranged and recorded the meeting and later testified was never

prosecuted.

Simpson—a former football star, movie actor, television pitcher and celebrity criminal defendant—was found guilty of 12 criminal charges including kidnapping, armed robbery and assault with a deadly weapon.

A three-justice Nevada Supreme Court panel in October upheld his conviction, and the court hasn’t ruled on a request for reconsideration.

Roger said he was confident the request would be denied.

In its separate ruling granting Stewart a new trial, the state high court ruled that Stewart didn’t get a fair jury trial because of Simpson’s notoriety.

Since then, Stewart has been unable to raise \$150,000 bail to be released pending a new trial.

Simpson attorney Malcolm LaVergne said Tuesday he was glad Stewart was being freed and wished him well.

“Our petition for rehearing is still pending,” LaVergne said. “Mr. Simpson waits for it patiently.”



AP

Clarence “C.J.” Stewart, right, talks with his attorney, Brent Bryson, before pleading an equivalent of a no contest Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2011 in Las Vegas, to felony robbery and conspiracy charges.

New edition removes Mark Twain’s ‘offensive’ words

MONTGOMERY, Alabama (AP)—Mark Twain wrote that “the difference between the almost right word and the right word is really a large matter.” A new edition of “Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” and “Tom Sawyer” will try to find out if that holds true by replacing a word considered a racial slur with the word “slave” in an effort not to offend readers.

Twain scholar Alan Gribben, who is working with NewSouth Books in Alabama to publish a combined volume of the books, said the racially offensive slur appears 219 times in “Huck Finn” and four times in “Tom Sawyer.” He said the word puts the books in danger of joining the list of literary classics that Twain once humorously defined as those “which people praise and don’t read.”

“It’s such a shame that one word should be a barrier between a marvelous reading experience and a lot of readers,” Gribben said.

Yet Twain was particular about his words. His letter in 1888 about the right word and the almost right one was “the difference between the lightning bug and the lightning.”

The book isn’t scheduled to be published until February, at a mere 7,500 copies, but Gribben has already received a flood of hateful e-mail accusing him of desecrating the novels. He

said the e-mails prove the word makes people uncomfortable.

“Not one of them mentions the word. They dance around it,” he said.

Another Twain scholar, professor Stephen Railton at the University of Virginia, said Gribben was well respected, but called the new version “a terrible idea.”

The language depicts America’s past, Railton said, and the revised book was not being true to the period in which Twain was writing. Railton has an unaltered version of “Huck Finn” coming out later this year that includes context for schools to explore racism and slavery in the book.

“If we can’t do that in the classroom, we can’t do that anywhere,” he said.

He said Gribben was not the first to alter “Huck Finn.” John Wallace, a teacher at the Mark Twain Intermediate School in northern Virginia, published a version of “Huck Finn” about 20 years ago that used “slave” rather than the racially offensive word.

“His book had no traction,” Railton said.

Gribben, a 69-year-old English professor at Auburn University Montgomery, said he would have opposed the change for much of his career, but he began using “slave” during public readings and found audiences more accepting.

He decided to pursue the revised edition after middle school and high school teachers lamented they could no longer assign the books.

Some parents and students have called for the removal of “Huck Finn” from reading lists for more than a half century. In 1957, the New York City Board of Education removed the book from the approved textbook lists of elementary and junior high schools, but it could be taught in high school and bought for school libraries.

In 1998, parents in Tempe, Arizona, sued the local high school over the book’s inclusion on a required reading list. The case went as far as a federal appeals court; the parents lost.

Published in the U.S. in 1885, “Huck Finn” is the fourth most banned book in schools, according to “Banned in the U.S.A.” by Herbert N. Foerster, a retired college librarian who has written several books on constitutional freedom of speech issues.

Gribben conceded the edited text loses some of the caustic sting but said: “I want to provide an option for teachers and other people not comfortable with 219 instances of that word.”

In addition to replacing the racial slur, Gribben changes the villain in “Tom Sawyer” from “Injun Joe” to “Indian Joe” and “half-breed” becomes “half-blood.”

Court: TV can’t be fined for ‘NYPD Blue’ nude shot

NEW YORK (AP)—The Federal Communications Commission cannot fine broadcasters for showing a woman’s nude buttocks on a 2003 episode of “NYPD Blue,” a federal court ruled Tuesday, citing its earlier decision to strike down FCC rules regarding fleeting expletives uttered on live broadcasts as unconstitutionally vague.

The 2nd U.S. Court of Appeals in Manhattan decided Tuesday to nullify a \$27,500 penalty that the FCC imposed on ABC and 45 of its affiliate stations after the image was broadcast on the police drama for less than seven seconds in February 2003. The combined fine was greater than \$1.2 million.

The appeals court said its finding was consistent with its decision last year that TV stations can no longer be fined for fleeting, unscripted profanities uttered during live broadcasts.

The FCC had created its fleeting-expletive policy after a January 2003 NBC broadcast of the Golden Globe Awards in which U2 lead singer Bono uttered the phrase “f----- brilliant.” The FCC said that word in any context “inherently has a sexual connotation” and can lead to enforcement.

Fox Television Stations, owned by Rupert Murdoch’s News Corp., and other networks challenged the policy in 2006 after the FCC cited the use of profanity during awards programs that were aired in

2002 and 2003. The FCC has appealed that ruling.

In its Tuesday ruling, a three-judge 2nd Circuit panel wrote that there was “no significant distinction” between its decision in the expletives case and its findings in the “NYPD Blue” case.

“According to the FCC, ‘nudity itself is not per se indecent,’” the judges wrote. “The FCC, therefore, decides in which contexts nudity is permissible and in which contexts it is not pursuant to an indecency policy that a panel of this court has determined is unconstitutionally vague.”

In a statement, FCC lawyer Austin Schlick said the ruling confirms that the 2nd Circuit’s decision in the earlier case was “excessively broad in rejecting the FCC’s ability to use context to evaluate indecency cases.” The FCC said it has not yet decided whether to appeal.

“Children and families are the real victims today. This ruling will only serve to embolden the networks to air even more graphic material,” said Tim Winter, president of The Parents Television Council, a group that supports strong broadcast-indecency rules and which filed papers with the court before it ruled.

“In this instance, ABC intentionally chose to air a scripted visual depiction of a fully naked woman before 10 p.m. There was absolutely nothing fleeting or accidental about it,” Winter said in a statement. “The inclusion

of the lengthy and ogling scene was intended to pander and titillate. This was a clear breach of the decency law. And now, nearly eight years after the episode aired, ABC is told it doesn’t have to abide by the law.”

David Kushner, a Raleigh, N.C., lawyer who represented ABC affiliates in the case, said the decision was a “nice New Year’s present” for the stations but not the end of the litigation.

“This case is far from over. I would be surprised if the FCC does not seek rehearing,” he said.

He predicted the decision would not lead to more nudity on network television, just as the decision in the fleeting expletives case has not created an avalanche of controversies over profanities on network television.

“No broadcasters are anxious to go out there and step their foot close to the line,” Kushner said.

He noted that the “NYPD Blue” episode led to fines only for stations in the Central and Mountain time zones because the show was aired on the East Coast at 10 p.m., when the rules are more relaxed, rather than 9 p.m., when it aired elsewhere.

In the “NYPD Blue” episode, actress Charlotte Ross, playing character Connie McDowell, disrobes as she prepares to shower after she had recently moved in with Andy Sipowicz, another character on the show.

Footloose 4: We Three Kings

By JAIME VERGARA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Rey Tayag of the Philippine Consulate General labor office and Marlon Regaton of Akap Pinoy, head chef of a samahan (fellowship) of former POLO cooking class grads, graced our Noche Buena table with a delivered platter of *rellenong manok* (stuffed de-boned chicken baked with meat and veggies like meatloaf, sliced and interspersed with slivers of cut orange fruit) last Christmas Eve. Having been an English teacher volunteer to OWWA's contract workers' training, the duo representing the CG and the *samahan* played bearers of gift and came over to deliver holiday greetings with a viand and a bottle of merlot. We feasted on the cooking group's delectable handiwork last

"there was no room in the inn through the shepherds' watch to the night the star stood still to bring the three royals/wise men before the throne of hay!" I do not think we will ever tire of that story for both its majesty and simplicity, but of course, each story telling brings with it the

scape) and metaphysical precision (mindscape) as it has been an invitation to shift one's existential point of view. E.g, the symbol of the royalty (and/or the wise) bowing and kneeling before the Way Life Is, YHWH Elohim, is not a bad picture of the significance of this almost

the exalted ruler (Theodosius' move to unify Rome) was the ethos of a collapsing empire; the praise of the ordinary and the mundane is the democratic preference of our time. Yet, on hindsight, it is now evident that the New Testament writers had even then the impudence to as-



JAIME VERGARA

The *rellenong manok* and bottle of merlot in the author's Noche Buena table last Christmas Eve.

June during the flag-raising to commemorate Philippine Independence Day. The new chefs bonded together to continue the fellowship and make their products available on the market.

The dish was good for 10-12 servings so lazy us had our meals covered from the night

chosen perspective of the storyteller and the listeners/readers.

Our language in our contemporary spirit reflections, while on foot or on the rail, on bike or on the trail, swimming the lagoon or picking up shells, had not been so much an attempt at geographical accuracy (land-

two millennia old recollection of an ancient story.

A privileged few recognizing primordial life in nature's care symbolized to me by the manger in the cave, an unlikely locale for epiphany and theophany, was lost in the Medieval Ages when Kristo Rai (Christ the King),

sault the prevailing fascination to royal power as the messianic hope for a Davidic heir to rise against the occupying Romans, replacing it with nature's real hope whispered in the innocent sigh of a child.

But I am getting away from the focus of our taste buds here. Our platter of de-boned chicken was obviously a labor of love, removing bones and stuffing the bird with a mixture of ground meat and vegetables, not an easy task. Our culinary skill stops at the threshold of preparing an omelet, and we barely pass a D-grade at that, so we admire those who have both the patience and the aptitude to regal our body senses with the refinements of gastro-preparation.

First, there is the choice of the chicken. Range fed is preferred since the meat is more succulent than the fatty ones crammed in poultry farms. The de-boning takes the mastery of a Zen Buddhist's knowledge of physiology so as not to break bones "and inflict further pain on the poor bird;" marinating the fowl for three hours in soy sauce, sugar, fresh calamansi (lemon) juice, and minced garlic; stuffing it with a mixture of ground meat, diced bacon, sausage and ham, sliced green pea pods, chopped red peppers, minced carrots, mixed with breadcrumbs, pickled relish, raisins, grated cheese, beaten plus peeled hard-boiled eggs, olive oil, and the combined sugar-soy sauce-minced garlic concoction; sewing up the whole bird and baking for two hours, basting and turning over on the hour for even browning, and then creating a gravy from the oil dripping. Anyone who can do this qualifies to work on Norman Chan's kitchen any day!

We belabor this recipe be-

cause the whole point of royalty in our time is expertise in the refinement of procedures, not blood progeny nor political connection, CNMI realities notwithstanding. We favor those who can manipulate words (like me), and those who line up numbers (not me, embarrassed to breeze through the crossword puzzle but get stuck on elementary Sudoku), this last gracing the ranks of accountants and auditors, financiers and bankers. That notable word-number exemplars in our time are Abramoff and Madoff do not negate Tony Pellegrino's harping of the need to upgrade our skills in the basic trades and the primary professions.

Still, and fundamentally, an educational institution that heeds not just refinement but also inclusiveness of the mind rather than blind adherence to calcified beliefs, ideologies and dogmas, not just vigor but compassion of the heart rather than advancement and greed, not just vitality but grace of the body rather than hedonistic aesthetics, and more importantly, responsiveness of deeds rather than obedient loyalty to inherited morals, and we would have a decent formula for the royal house of our time.

They were wise and royal, those three magi from the East, to the gift of life as it was given. We will be well to do likewise, and we shall further the cause of Akap Pinoy and similar groups if we watch the refinement of our taste buds, as well.

'Baker Street' singer Gerry Rafferty dead at 63

LONDON (AP)—Gerry Rafferty, the Scottish singer-songwriter behind hit songs "Baker Street" and "Stuck in the Middle With You," has died. He was 63.

Rafferty's agent Paul Charles confirmed Tuesday that his client had passed away following a long illness, but said he had no additional information on how or where he had died.

Rafferty's classic record "Baker Street"—renowned worldwide for its distinctive haunting saxophone solo—climbed to No. 3 in the U.K. and No. 2 in the U.S. music charts in 1978. It still achieves considerable airplay on radio stations.

The singer also recorded "Stuck in the Middle With You" in 1972 while performing as part of the Scottish folk-rock band Stealers Wheel. The ode—or mocking tribute—to Bob Dylan's raspy voice grew new wings in film maker Quentin Tarantino's movie "Reservoir Dogs," and has sold more than a million copies worldwide.

Rafferty made headlines in recent years for his public struggles with alcoholism and had also undergone treatment for liver failure. He reassured fans of his well-being in February 2009 after a former bandmate expressed concerns over his health and

whereabouts in the press. Later that year, Rafferty released the album "Life Goes On."

After initially cutting his teeth as a busker, Rafferty appeared with Scottish comedian Billy Connolly in folk group the Humblebums and released a solo record before founding Stealers Wheel.

Despite his brushes with negative press—from a long-running contract dispute with Stealers Wheel to scathing character critiques posted online by his brother, Jim—Rafferty was described by employees at his latest record label as a man who kept to himself and shunned the spotlight.

Old man 'Seinfeld' actor Bill Erwin dies at 96

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Character actor Bill Erwin, whose nearly seven-decade Hollywood career included his memorable role as the grumpy old man on television's "Seinfeld," has died. He was 96.

Erwin, also known for his role as Arthur the bellman in the 1980 fantasy film "Somewhere in Time," died the morning of Dec. 29 at his home in suburban Los Angeles' Studio City, his son Mike Erwin said Tuesday from his Jacksonville, Ore., home.

He died of age-related causes, his son said.

"He just ran out of gas,"

Mike Erwin said. "He was happy to the end."

Erwin's death was first reported by the Los Angeles Times.

Erwin's Hollywood career dates back to 1941, when he appeared in the movie "You're in the Army Now." His scores of credits include roles on "The Twilight Zone," "Gunsmoke," "Perry Mason," "The Golden Girls," "Growing Pains," "Wagon Train," "The Rifleman," "The Jeff Foxworthy Show," "Who's the Boss?" and "My Name is Earl."

But his old man character Sid Fields on "Seinfeld," which got him an Emmy nomination in 1993, is perhaps his most mem-

orable role.

Erwin studied acting at the Pasadena Playhouse and performed in stage productions around Los Angeles through the decades. He also dabbled as a cartoonist and his work was published in The New Yorker, Playboy and Los Angeles magazine.

Besides his son Mike, Erwin is survived by son Timothy Erwin, and daughters Lindsey Thomas Erwin and Kelly Erwin, all of Los Angeles; and his sister Mary Gene Cosper in San Angelo, Texas.

Plans for a public memorial service in Los Angeles were incomplete.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In Loving Memory of our dearly beloved

Mariano Kogure Dela Cruz

Born to Life: January 17, 1981
Date joined our savior: January 2, 2011

In his new life, he now joins his:

Grandmother: Ana Terlaje Cogure
Reared Grandparents: Mariano F. & Maria E. Aquino
Uncle: Quirino E. Aquino
Grandfather in-law: Isidro Kapileo Peter
Grandmother in-law: Concepcion R. Pua

His love and memories will forever remain in the hearts of his:

Wife: Rosario Camacho Peter "Charu"
Daughter: Miah-Renisha Jolicia Peter Dela Cruz
Mother: Josephine Kogure Dela Cruz Piao
Sister and Spouse: Tina Dela Cruz and Robert Pangelinan (Drake and Danica)
Parents in-law: Emery Limes Peter and Tricia Blas Camacho
Brothers and sisters in-law: Joyce Ruben, Bradford John/Abigail Iginoef (Rio' Monica), Raymond Anthony / Jerika Laniyo (Kivey Ann), Ramona Nonata / Richard Manalo, Carlacia Ruben
Grandparents: Francisco M. and Myet Dela Cruz
Grandparents in-law: Rosa Limes Peter / Calistro Ruben
Francisco / Lourdes Camacho 'Beba'
Reared Grandfather in-law: Eulogio L. Pua
Godparents: Herman and Tomasa Ada (Baptism), Wence Aquino (Confirmation)
Uncles and Aunts: Alice C. / Robert Galang & children, Cynthia D. / Ambrose Pushparag & children, Francisco Dela Cruz, Lou D. / Bob Lloyd & family, Joseph / Virginia Dela Cruz & children, Bernie / Jim Clevenger & children, Lucia D. / Vicente Torres & children, Erakolano / Mary Ann Dela Cruz & children, Rudy Dela Cruz & son, Regino / Rosanna Aquino & children, Daniel E. Aquino & children, Juan / Mary Lee Aquino & children, Neiar Aquino & children, Rosa S. Aquino & children, +Libera T. Aichi & Children

He is additionally survived by numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews, godchildren and friends.

Holy Eucharist is being offered at San Antonio Church at 6:00pm followed by the Holy Rosary until Saturday, January 8, 2011. On Sunday, January 9, 2011 Holy Eucharist will be offered at 7:00 a.m. followed by the Holy Rosary. On Monday, January 10, 2011, his remains will be escorted from CHC Chapel to San Antonio Church at 7:00 a.m. for Responso, Holy Rosary, and viewing. Celebration of the Holy Eucharist will be offered at 11:00 a.m. followed by the interment of his final resting place at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

We extend our sincerest humble gratitude for all your prayers and love.

From Josephine, Rosario, Miah, and Family.

Choreographer: Jackson was sick days before death

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A choreographer who worked with Michael Jackson on his ill-fated concert tour told a judge Tuesday he clashed with Jackson's doctor and others over the superstar's health six days before he died.

Kenny Ortega, who was the last person to work with Jackson, testified that he was summoned to Jackson's home a day after letting the superstar skip rehearsal because he seemed sick.

Dr. Conrad Murray and others suggested Jackson should not have been sent home because he was physically and emotionally fine, Ortega testified, adding he was told not to try to be Jackson's doctor or psychiatrist.

The testimony came during a preliminary hearing to determine if Murray, the singer's personal physician, will be tried

on a charge of involuntary manslaughter.

Authorities contend Murray gave Jackson a lethal dose of the powerful anesthetic propofol and other sedatives in the bedroom of his rented mansion before he died on June 25, 2009.

Deputy District Attorney David Walgren said in his opening statement that Jackson was already dead when Murray summoned help and tried to conceal his administering of propofol to the pop star, ordering a bodyguard to collect items before paramedics were called.

Later in the hearing, Ortega testified that Jackson had gone home early from rehearsals on June 19.

"He didn't look well at all," Ortega testified. "Michael was chilled and soft-spoken. ... He wasn't in the kind of condition



Sean Kang, a Michael Jackson fan from New York, holds up a sign in protest to Michael Jackson's doctor, Conrad Murray, at a Los Angeles Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2011.

to be at rehearsal."

Ortega also said Jackson appeared lost.

"It was scary. I couldn't put my finger on it," Ortega said. "I

the company producing Jackson's "This Is It" comeback tour.

"It quickly became clear that the meeting was about me," Ortega said. "Dr. Murray was upset that I had sent Michael home the night before and didn't allow him to rehearse."

Ortega said he replied that, "In my opinion, Michael was not healthy enough to be on stage, and it could endanger him. I said it was Michael's choice" to go home.

The choreographer went on to say there were no problems at further rehearsals, and the two sessions that preceded Jackson's death were "fabulous."

On June 23, he said, "It was like the Michael we all knew ... He was in a delightful mood and we had a great day."

He recalled his last conversation with Jackson.

"He said he was very, very happy. He felt the dream was there. He said to tell everybody he loved them and appreciated their hard work," Ortega said.

During cross-examination, defense attorney Ed Chernoff asked

Ortega if he had ever seen anyone having withdrawals from drugs, and the witness said he had not. Chernoff did not elaborate.

Another witness, Jackson's personal assistant Michael Amir Williams, described Murray calling him on the day the superstar died and frantically asking him to get help from bodyguards for Jackson, who was in a bedroom.

Murray told him the singer had a "bad reaction" and that immediate help was needed, but didn't ask him to call 911, Williams said.

Williams described the chaotic scene at the mansion and hospital and recalled the heart-breaking moment when DiLeo told Jackson's children their father was dead. Williams said he and Murray and everyone else were crying.

Faheem Muhammad, one of Jackson's bodyguards, testified that two of the pop star's children, Prince, then 12, and Paris, who was 11, watched as Murray frantically attempted to revive him in the bedroom of his rented mansion.

Lindsay Lohan 'feels good' to be back in L.A.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sheriff's investigators want Lindsay Lohan charged with battery for last month's skirmish with a Betty Ford Center rehabilitation technician.

A two-week investigation shows the 24-year-old actress violated her probation during the altercation and details will be sent to the Los Angeles County Probation Department this week, Riverside County sheriff's Sgt. Joe Borja said in a news release.

A Beverly Hills judge has said Lohan will be jailed if she violates probation.

Investigators expect to take their case to the Riverside County district attorney's office this week for possible prosecution, Borja said.

Lohan returned to the Rancho Mirage drug dependency center, about 120 miles east of Los Angeles, after curfew on Dec. 12 and refused rehab worker Dawn Holland's request to take a Breathalyzer test, according to investigators. Lohan is accused of pushing Holland, who then dialed 911, and Lohan ripped the phone away and injured Holland's wrist.

Lohan received treatment at Betty Ford since late September. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Elden Fox, who has overseen Lohan's probation for her 3 1/2 year-old drunken driving case, required Lohan to remain at the rehab center until Monday.

Lohan was back in the Los Angeles area—and being followed by photographers—Tuesday afternoon.

RadarOnline posted a cell phone video of what appeared to be Lohan with her father, Mi-



In this May 24, 2010 file photo, actress Lindsay Lohan arrives at the Beverly Hills Courthouse in Beverly Hills, Calif.

chael, greeting her "Freaky Friday" co-star Jamie Lee Curtis. The celebrity site said the video was taken Tuesday at the Four Seasons hotel.

TMZ later posted video of Lohan heading to a gym. When asked by a cameraman how it felt to be back in Los Angeles, she said it "feels good" but dodged questions about the Riverside sheriff's investigation, saying "I'm just going to the gym."

John Hall, spokesman for the Riverside County district attorney's office, said his office expected to receive investigators'

findings this week. If Lohan is prosecuted in Riverside County, the Los Angeles County Probation Department would be notified, he said.

"The important, yet limited, investigatory role of the police to gather facts and collect evidence is well-established," Lohan attorney Shawn Chapman Holley said in a statement Tuesday. She added that the police "went outside this limited role to issue a press statement expressing its opinion about what should happen in Ms. Lohan's case is highly unusual and deeply troubling."

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Little Fockers

Friday & Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40
 Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
 Mon through Thurs 4:20 7:20

Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller
 Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A birthday party for the twins gives Greg an opportunity to redeem himself after he takes a job that raises the suspicions of his overbearing father-in-law, Jack (Robert De Niro), in this installment of the hit comedy series. Greg (Ben Stiller) and Pam (Teri Polo) have been together for ten years, and now they're the proud parents of two adorable twins. But money is tight, and in order to keep his family afloat, devoted nurse Greg takes a second job working for a drug company.



True Grit

Friday & Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35
 Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
 Mon through Thurs 4:25 7:25

Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon
 Western • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A 14-year-old girl joins an aging U.S. marshal (Jeff Bridges) and another lawman (Matt Damon) in tracking her father's killer into hostile Indian territory in Joel and Ethan Coen's adaptation of Charles Portis' original novel. Sticking more closely to the source material than the 1969 feature adaptation starring Western icon John Wayne, the Coens' True Grit tells the story from the young girl's perspective, and re-teams the celebrated filmmaking duo with their No Country for Old Men screenwriting partner Scott Rudin. Josh Brolin co-stars.



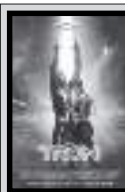
Yogi Bear

Friday & Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
 Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
 Mon through Thurs 4:00 7:00

Justin Timberlake, Dan Aykroyd
 Children's, Family • Rated PG

Synopsis

Hanna-Barbera's beloved picnic basket-stealing bear makes his big-screen debut in this live-action/animated mix children's pic from Ash Brannon, co-director of Surf's Up. The Tooth Fairy writing team of Joshua Sternin and Jeffrey Ventimilia provide the screenplay, which will center around CG Yogi and Boo Boo as they interact with live actors in Jellystone Park.



Tron Legacy

Friday & Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
 Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
 Mon through Thurs 4:05 7:05

Garrett Hedlund, Jeff Bridges
 Science, Fiction • Rated PG



Fighter

Friday & Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
 Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
 Mon through Thurs 4:30 7:30

Mark Wahlberg, Christian Bale
 Drama • Rated R



How Do You Know?

Friday & Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50
 Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
 Mon through Thurs 4:10 7:10

Reese Witherspoon, Owen Wilson
 Comedy • Rated PG 13



The Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader

Friday & Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00
 Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
 Mon through Thurs 4:15 7:15

Georgie Henley, Ben Barnes
 Fantasy, Children's, Family • Rated PG

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Comic book legend Stan Lee gets Hollywood star

LOS ANGELES (AP)—There's a new superhero on Hollywood Boulevard.

Comic book legend Stan Lee, creator or co-creator of such Marvel Comics characters as Spider-Man, the Incredible Hulk, X-Men, The Fantastic Four and Iron Man, has now been enshrined in concrete.

The 88-year-old Lee unveiled his Walk of Fame sidewalk star on Tuesday in front of the Live Nation Building on Hollywood Boulevard. It's the 2,428th star dedicated on the famous avenue of dreams.

Lee is founder, chairman and chief creative officer of POW! Entertainment.

More than 2 million of Lee's comic books have been published in 75 nations and in 25 languages. His characters have been featured in 24 animated television series and several live-action movies.



Comic book creator Stan Lee poses with his wife Joan after he received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles, Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2011.

Country singer Kellie Pickler marries songwriter



NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country singer Kellie Pickler has gotten married. Her label, BNA Records, says in a statement that she wed songwriter Kyle Jacobs on New Year's Day. They held a small ceremony on a private island in the Caribbean.

Pickler finished in the top

In this Nov. 10, 2010 file photo, country singer and former "American Idol" contestant Kellie Pickler attends the 44th Annual Country Music Awards in Nashville, Tenn.

AP

six on "American Idol" in 2005. Her songs include the top 10 hit she co-wrote with Taylor Swift, "Best Days of Your Life," as well

as "Red High Heels," "Don't You Know You're Beautiful," and her most recent single, "Makin' Me Fall in Love Again."

Matt Damon, J-Lo to present at Golden Globes

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jason Bourne, a vampire heartthrob and an "American Idol" judge are going to the Golden Globes.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association announced Tuesday on Twitter that Matt Damon, Robert Pattinson and Jennifer Lopez would present trophies at the 68th annual ceremony at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Jan. 16.

For the second year in a row, Ricky Gervais will host the event, which is seen as a predictor of how films will do at the Academy Awards on Feb. 27.

Damon will present the Cecil B. DeMille Award to previously announced recipient Robert De Niro.



In this Oct. 10, 2010 file photo, actor Matt Damon attends the premiere of "Hereafter" at Alice Tully Hall during the 48th New York Film Festival in New York.

AP

Montel Williams cited after pipe found at airport

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Wisconsin authorities say former talk show host and medical marijuana activist Montel Williams has been cited for possession of drug paraphernalia at General Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee.

The Milwaukee County sheriff's office says the Transportation Security Administration found Williams had a pipe commonly used for marijuana as he passed through a security checkpoint Tuesday.

The sheriff's office says

Williams paid the \$484 citation and was released to continue his travel.

Williams has said he uses marijuana to relieve chronic pain caused by multiple sclerosis that was diagnosed in 1999. The 54-year-old has said he became an activist pushing for medical marijuana laws after being stopped at a Detroit airport years ago for carrying drug paraphernalia.

Messages left Tuesday for his attorney, Nina Shaw, were not immediately returned.



In this undated film publicity image released by Paramount Pictures, Jeff Bridges, left, and Hailee Steinfeld are shown in a scene from "True Grit."

'True Grit,' '127 Hours' receive writers noms

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Huge hits such as "True Grit" and "Inception" will be up against smaller films that include "127 Hours" and "The Kids Are All Right" for screenplay honors from the Writers Guild of America.

The sci-fi smash "Inception" and the lesbian family tale "The Kids Are All Right" were among guild nominees Tuesday for best original screenplay, along with the ballet thriller "Black Swan," the boxing saga "The Fighter" and the comic drama "Please Give."

The Western "True Grit" and the survival story "127 Hours" are in the running for adapted screenplay, along with the con

man tale "I Love You Phillip Morris," the Facebook drama "The Social Network" and the heist thriller "The Town."

Some of the year's most acclaimed films, including "The King's Speech," "Winter's Bone" and "Toy Story 3," were ineligible because they were not made under the guild's contract guidelines.

Documentary screenplay nominees are "Enemies of the People," "Freedom Riders," "Gasland," "Inside Job," "The Two Escobars" and "Who Is Harry Nilsson (And Why Is Everybody Talkin' About Him)?"

Guild winners will be announced Feb. 5.

Taking illicit photos could land girl in legal hot water

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I would like to share some important information with "Don't Want to Lose Him in the U.S.A." (Nov. 10). She's the young lady who is being pressured by her boyfriend to take photos of her classmates in the girls' locker room.

The students at the high school where I teach recently attended a program on Internet and online safety. One of the things that really surprised them was learning cell phone calls don't just go from one phone to another. All text messages and calls are transmitted through cell phone towers, which route the calls or texts to the company's server. All sent messages and photos are stored on the provider's server. This means pictures deleted from the phone are never really deleted—and text messages and photos never go away. They still exist in the virtual world.

Should those pictures become the center of a court case, the information is subject to "discovery." With the right equipment, law enforcement can retrieve deleted photos from anyone's cell phone.

"Don't Want to Lose Him" needs to clearly understand she might be prosecuted for producing, distributing and possessing child pornography.

A HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER IN CHURCHVILLE, VA.

DEAR TEACHER: Thank you for delivering a valuable message that may provide a wake-up call for all my readers. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Refusing to take the photos, but keeping it quiet, is not enough. I think "Don't Want to Lose Him" should make copies of your column and paste them on every locker to warn all the girls they are at risk—even when they think they have privacy. She should also tell the principal, who may be able to provide extra protection.

SHEILA IN GIG HARBOR, WASH.

DEAR ABBY: I think the issue of that young woman's low self-esteem should be addressed. Her boyfriend is holding her hostage to his wishes and desires, and will probably always do so if she continues to stay with him. It's important that "Don't Want to Lose Him" learns to love the principled, intelligent person she already is and continue to stand up for herself. Eventually, someone will appreciate her good qualities and she won't have to settle for less than she deserves.

BEEN THERE IN ARIZONA

DEAR ABBY: "Don't Want to Lose Him" should report this to a trusted adult or school counselor. At the very least, this girl needs to know she will be doing a great service if she lets the other girls know so they can be on the lookout for someone sneaking a camera or cell phone into their locker room. She could also use some support and affection that doesn't come from a manipulative, self-serving "boyfriend."

LISA IN SAN RAFAEL, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: I am a mental health professional. What "Don't Want to Lose Him" is being pressed to do is called "sexting," and it is a criminal offense in almost every state in the U.S. The young lady and whoever receives and distributes those photos could be convicted of a felony, serve prison time and live the rest of their lives as registered sex offenders.

There have been cases of young people—victims of sexting—who have committed suicide over the humiliation of being exposed against their will. Once these photos go "viral," they are on the Internet forever. Parents, friends, teachers and schools need to make it a priority to talk to kids about the moral, legal and social ramifications of taking these kinds of photos of themselves and others.

JACQUELINE IN GIBSONIA, PA.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



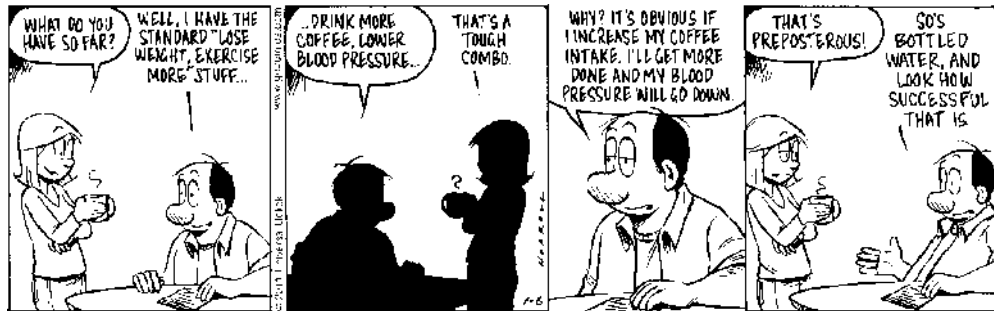
Garfield®

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By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

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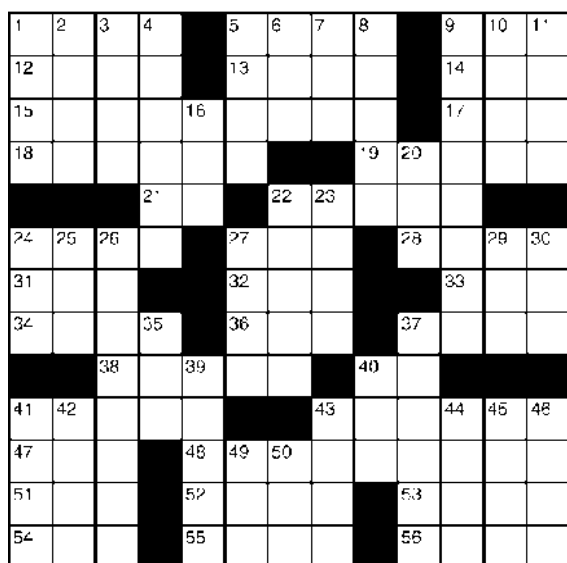
1 Capri, e.g.
5 Simon or Mc-Cartney
9 Moving vehicle
12 Practice pugilism
13 News, for short
14 Praise in verse
15 What the "food pyramid" involves
17 Smoked salmon
18 Pact
19 Be
21 Denial
22 Deserve
24 Street
27 Scatter seed
28 Passport endorsement
31 Upper limb
32 Color
33 Lord's Prayer start
34 "Dragnet" star

DOWN

1 "— II
3 Tardy
4 Gofer's job
5 Compassion
6 Blackbird
7 Venetian
8 Hermit
9 Free will
10 Commotions
11 On deck
16 Judge
20 Louis —
22 Grieve
23 Basin accessory
24 Uncultured
25 Tramcar contents
26 Drive old home
27 Mets' home
29 generis
30 Illustrations
35 Automation, for short
37 Tiny tom?
39 Used a paper towel
40 Omega precursor
41 Won't shut up
42 Hodgepodge
43 Mideast gulf
44 Take on
45 Peel source
46 Picnic invaders
49 Before
50 Genetic stuff

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-8



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For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! \$99 per minute, touch-tone/relay phones. (18+ or y.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Julie Chen, 41; Gabrielle Reece, 41; Rowan Atkinson, 56; Bonnie Franklin, 67

Happy Birthday: Learn whatever information you require to get this year's project off the ground. It's your ability to be prepared that will help you reach your goals. All work and no play will not sit well with your friends and family. Plan to put time aside for vacations, special events and to help those in need. Your numbers are 6, 10, 16, 20, 27, 38, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Let your intuition guide you and your love and compassion be your driving force. The less time you dwell on what isn't going your way, the further ahead you will be. It's time to trust and to have confidence in your ability to succeed. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Protect your assets. Don't contribute or donate to a cause about which you know little. Expect someone to try to take advantage of you by playing on your vulnerability. Focus more on learning and discussing new possibilities. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You stand to advance if you are willing to go the extra mile regarding employment. Don't let someone who is competing against you make you look bad when you know you have more to offer. Secure your position by taking on more responsibility. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Opportunities are abundant. Don't be shy or let someone else present what you have to offer. Love is on the rise and nurturing a relation-

ship or starting something new with someone you are attracted to will turn out well. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Strict budgeting and knowing when to say no will be required if you want to avoid a financial problem. Make personal changes that will help build your confidence. Altering your plans will lead to meeting someone you find interesting. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put your knowledge and expertise to the test and you will make financial gains. Work related to services you can offer will allow you to make extra cash. Don't underestimate your competition. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't start arguments or disagree with people who are set in their ways. It's best to keep the peace and go about your own business. Discipline will play a role in finishing what you start and getting what you want. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your confidence will be required. Don't allow anyone to unsettle you or cause you to second-guess what you should do next. Follow your own path. An emotional issue must not stand in your way or slow you down. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't divulge any information that might be used against you. A problem with someone you work with or have to rely on will leave you in an awkward position. Prepare to take on added responsibilities. *****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take the initiative and honor the responsibility-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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ties you have taken on. What you offer now will make a difference to someone. Make the effort and do your best. The appreciation you receive will far outweigh the cost. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The past is where to begin if you want to make the right choice now. It's never too late to make a difference or to make amends for something you aren't proud of doing. Your ability to turn things around begins now. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Let your intuition guide you but don't make any impulsive moves. Keeping the peace and taking time to enjoy what unfolds will be more important than the end result. Learn from the experience. ***

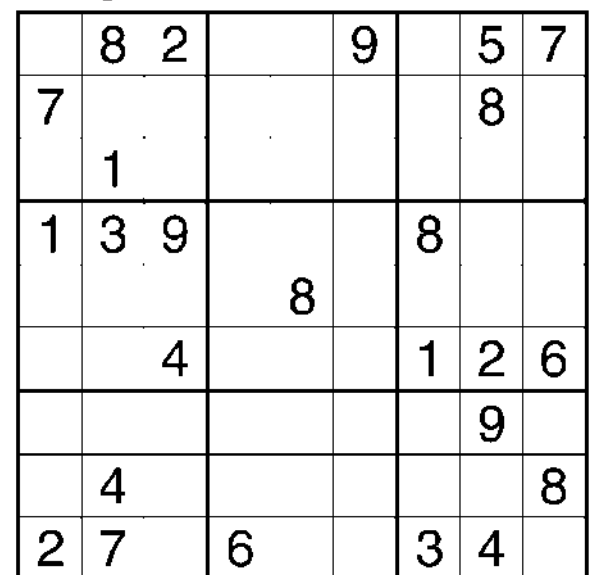
Birthday Baby: You are inventive, proactive and productive. You are intuitive and creative and can visualize the big picture when making important decisions.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

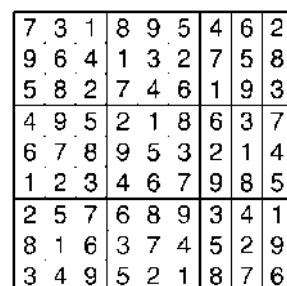


Difficulty Level ★★★

1/0/0

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The following letters spell the Wonderword.

OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN

Solution: 7 letters



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Acts, Adult, Attuned, Austria, Band, Blue, British, Broadway, Byron, Chase, Devoted, Eurovision, Farrar, Gene Kelly, Glac, Grass, Haas, Helen, Hopelessly, John, Leading, Music, Nations, Physical, Please, Recovery, Ready, Retreat, Rolo, Sancy, Show, Single, Soundtracks, Spanish, Store, Summer, Time, Trave, Twist of Fate, United, Xanadu.

Yesterday's Answer: Freezing

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WHATZIT Solution: Say it with flowers

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IMMEDIATE OPENING

DIESEL MECHANIC

APPLY IN PERSON OR BRING RESUME

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Vacancy Number: 11-008

Opening Date: December 23, 2010
Closing Date: January 7, 2010

Accountant

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or designee. May supervise accounting support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Maintains, monitors, and balances assigned funds. Performs professional accounting responsibilities, which includes: preparing general journal entries; ensuring proper departmental approvals; auditing accounts; assisting with annual audits; and, performing other related activities. Researches information on accounts for customers, internal departments, and other interested parties. Prepares, reviews, and submits a variety of reports, reconciliations, and statements to and from internal departments, financial institutions, and/or Local, State, and Federal agencies. Performs month-end and year-end closing of books of accounts for assigned funds. Assignment to various sections of the CFO division will involve additional, more specific responsibilities. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION: Chief Financial Officer Division, **SAIPAN.**
SALARY: \$35,884 TO \$41,794 per annum.
POSITIONS: Three (3).
CONTRACT: Two-years.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelors Degree in Accounting, Finance or a related field, plus one to three years of professional level accounting or finance. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and other applicable laws, rules and regulations; Basic mathematics; Fixed asset accounting. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Performing mathematical calculations; Applying accounting procedures and principles; Recording, analyzing, verifying, reconciling, and reporting accounting transactions; Operating a 10-key machine; Preparing and analyzing financial statements and reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Vacancy Number: 11-007

Opening Date: December 23, 2010
Closing Date: January 7, 2010

Accounting Specialist

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or designee. May supervise lower level staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs paraprofessional accounting support activities to include: verifying fund balances and obligating expenditures; reviewing open accounts and contracts; editing, posting delinquency notices and disconnection lists; preparing service orders for termination of accounts; processing travel documents; maintaining subsidiary ledgers; and, processing and filing payroll documents. Generates, reviews, analyzes, edits and distributes a wide variety of reports. Establishes and maintains filing systems. Receives and responds to complex customer complaints. Assignment to various sections of the CFO division will involve additional, more specific responsibilities. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION: Chief Financial Officer Division, **SAIPAN.**
SALARY: \$21,612 TO \$22,920 per annum.
POSITIONS: Four (4).
CONTRACT: Two-years.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Associate Degree in Accounting and one to four years of progressively responsible experience related to the area of assignment. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Basic budgeting principles; Basic accounting principles; Billing procedures; Basic mathematical concepts; Customer service principles; Banking procedures. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Providing customer service; Paying attention to detail in order to find errors; Performing basic mathematical calculations; Maintaining records; Preparing reports; Reconciling accounts and ledgers; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Vacancy Number: 11-004

Opening Date: December 23, 2010
Closing Date: January 7, 2010

Communications Operator

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Communications Manager or designee. Monitors radio communications in order to dispatch crews for troubleshooting. Answers incoming calls reporting complaints on water, sewer or power problems. Maintains file systems. Prepares overtime requests for troubleshooters. Performs data entry; logs in customer complaints. Follows up with customers in order to verify customer's experience. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION: Administration, **SAIPAN.**
SALARY: \$11,036 to \$13,631 per annum.
POSITIONS: One (1)
CONTRACT: Two-years.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High School Diploma, or G.E.D., plus zero to three years of related experience required. Knowledge of: Customer service techniques; Telephone etiquette; Radios. Skill in: Providing customer service; Using two-way radios; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Vacancy Number: 11-005

Opening Date: December 23, 2010
Closing Date: January 7, 2010

Accounting Assistant

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or designee. Performs a wide variety of routine fiscal support activities to include: receiving and processing payments; issuing receipts; preparing daily deposit slips; opening new accounts; closing credit cards; verifying and processing payroll; running automatic credit card payments; posting invoices; preparing checks; preparing refunds; and, preparing charge vouchers. Generates and distributes routine reports. Maintains filing systems. Performs customer service activities to include assisting customers with applications, payments and in settling disputes. Assignment to various sections of the CFO division will involve additional, more specific responsibilities. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION: Chief Financial Officer Division, **SAIPAN.**
SALARY: \$11,036 to \$12,263 per annum.
POSITIONS: One (1)
CONTRACT: Two-years.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: High School Diploma, or G.E.D., plus zero to three years related customer service or bookkeeping experience. Knowledge of: Basic bookkeeping principles; Office procedures, methods, and equipment; Keyboarding techniques; Basic mathematical concepts; Customer service principles; Cash handling and bank deposit procedures. Skill in: Providing customer service; Performing basic mathematical calculations; Maintaining records; Keyboarding; Using standard office equipment; Tabulating, recording, and balancing transactions; Preparing routine reports; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Job Vacancy Number: 11-006

Opening Date: December 23, 2010
Closing Date: January 7, 2010

Accounting Technician

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or designee. May help supervise or supervise lower level staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs a wide variety of routine to moderate level fiscal support activities to include: verifying daily transactions processed by others; editing and posting daily transactions; preparing change fund at bank; preparing certification of completion of services; entering NSF checks; preparing billing cycles; reviewing tampered accounts; and, preparing billing adjustments. Generates, reviews and distributes reports. Maintains filing systems. Receives and responds to customer complaints. Assignment to various sections of the CFO division will involve additional, more specific responsibilities. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION: Chief Financial Officer Division, **SAIPAN.**
SALARY: \$15,139 to \$16,155 per annum.
POSITIONS: Two (2)
CONTRACT: Two-years.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: EITHER High School Diploma (or G.E.D.) and four years of bookkeeping or related fiscal support experience OR an Associate's degree in a related field. Knowledge of: Supervisory principles; Basic bookkeeping principles; Office procedures, methods, and equipment; Keyboarding techniques; Basic mathematical concepts; Customer service principles; Banking procedures. Skill in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Providing customer service; Paying attention to detail in order to find errors; Performing basic mathematical calculations; Maintaining records; Keyboarding; Using standard office equipment; Tabulating, recording, and balancing transactions; Preparing routine reports; Using a computer and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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E O N Y

Find today's solution in this section

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Sports

Angamwas rules 4-person

Saipan Tribune

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Successful candidates must be able to demonstrate effective:

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- Must be punctual
- Must be willing to learn new skills & follow instructions
- Must be able to work a flexible schedule; including Sunday's and Holiday's.
- Sales or customer service background helpful
- A High School Diploma or GED required.
- Applications are available @ Shell Gualo Rai (across from Pizza Hut)

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Gasol lifts Lakers past Pistons, 108-83



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Pau Gasol scored 21 points and the Los Angeles Lakers finally found a sub-.500 team they could beat easily, winning 108-83 against the Detroit Pistons on Tuesday night.

Kobe Bryant added 17 points, moving him past Dominique Wilkins into 10th on the NBA's career scoring list with 26,671. Andrew Bynum finished with 13 points after scoring eight of the Lakers' first 14 points of the game. Lamar Odom had 16.

Tracy McGrady and Greg Monroe scored 14 points each, and Tayshaun Prince added 12 for the Pistons, who lost their fifth straight to the Lakers and fell to 3-16 on the road.

The Lakers had lost four of their previous six, including three at home. They had mixed results against their last two sub-.500 opponents, barely beating Philadelphia 102-98 before losing to Memphis 104-85. Before that, they lost by 19 to Milwaukee and by 16 against Miami, both at home.

But they had an easier time against the Pistons, even if it took them an entire half to get going.

The Lakers took control in the third quarter after stumbling through a poor-shooting first half. Bryant was 4 of 15 with nine points at the break, after going 0 for 9 in the opening quarter. Ron Artest was 1 of 4 and Derek Fisher 0 for 2, leaving Gasol and Bynum with the biggest contributions.

Bryant keyed a 16-2 run to open the third with six points, hitting two free throws after going 1 of 4 from the line in the first half and finishing Artest's steal with a fast-break driving dunk. His driving layup sent



Los Angeles Lakers power forward Pau Gasol, of Spain, reacts after making a basket during the first half of an NBA basketball game with the Detroit Pistons in Los Angeles, Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2011.

him past Wilkins and extended the Lakers' lead to 61-44.

From there, the Lakers cruised to a 76-59 lead heading into the fourth, when they were similarly dominating at the start. Shannon Brown scored seven points in a 13-2 run that made it 89-61.

Heat 101, Bucks 89

At Miami, Dwyane Wade scored 34 points, and LeBron James added 25 points and nine assists

as the Miami Heat pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat the Milwaukee Bucks for their 19th win in 20 games.

Chris Bosh finished with 19 points and 12 rebounds for the Heat, who trailed most of the third quarter before putting together a 32-13 burst, sealed by a 13-0 run in the final minutes.

It was Miami's final home game for two weeks; the Heat start a five-game, 10-day trip in Milwau-

kee on Friday. Miami has won 11 straight away from home.

John Salmons scored 18 points for Milwaukee, which got 16 from Andrew Bogut and 14 from former Heat guard Keyon Dooling. The Bucks were out-rebounded 47-34.

Knicks 128, Spurs 115

At New York, Wilson Chandler scored a season-high 31 points as

New York overwhelmed San Antonio with a sensational offensive performance.

Amare Stoudemire and Raymond Felton added 28 apiece for the Knicks, who snapped the Spurs' four-game winning streak and dropped them to 29-5. New York rang up the highest point total San Antonio has allowed this season, shooting 55 percent and leading most of the way in its second straight victory.

Tony Parker had 26 points for the Spurs, while DeJuan Blair added 17, Manu Ginobili scored 15 and Tim Duncan finished with 14.

Mavericks 84, Trail Blazers 81

At Dallas, Jason Terry scored 12 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter and DeShawn Stevenson also had 18 points as injury-depleted Dallas held on for the victory.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 28 points and 10 rebounds and Marcus Camby contributed 10 points and 20 rebounds for Portland.

Tyson Chandler added 14 points and 13 rebounds for the Mavericks, who are without injured starters Dirk Nowitzki and Caron Butler.

Earlier in the day, the team announced that Butler will miss the rest of the season following surgery Tuesday to repair a torn tendon in his right knee.

Grizzlies 110, Thunder 105

At Memphis, Tennessee, Zach Randolph scored 31 points, including 13 in the fourth quarter, and Tony Allen made two late free throws to help the Grizzlies get the win.

Allen's two free throws with 15 seconds left gave Memphis a 108-105 lead. Thunder star Kevin Durant missed a deep

3-pointer on the next possession and Randolph sealed the win with two more foul shots.

After struggling early in the game, including three missed layups, Allen scored a season-high 19 points. Rudy Gay scored 27 points and Randolph added 16 rebounds, leading Memphis to a 42-31 advantage on the boards.

Durant and Russell Westbrook each scored 28 points for Oklahoma City. James Harden had 17.

Hawks 108, Kings 102

At Sacramento, California, Jamal Crawford scored a season-high 31 points and Joe Johnson had 29 as Atlanta earned its fourth victory in five games.

The Hawks squandered a 20-point lead in the fourth quarter, but made 10 free throws in the final minute to beat the Kings for the sixth straight time. Josh Smith had 14 points and 11 rebounds, and former Sacramento star Mike Bibby added nine points and 10 boards.

Tyreke Evans had 15 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter for the Kings, who outscored Atlanta 39-31 in the final period. DeMarcus Cousins also had a huge fourth, scoring 16 of his 24 points.

Bulls 111, Raptors 91

At Chicago, Luol Deng scored 24 points to lead surging Chicago past Toronto for another victory.

Derrick Rose added 19 points and six assists for the Bulls, who have won five straight and 14 of 16. Reserve Taj Gibson had 16 points and 14 rebounds, helping Chicago to a 44-33 edge on the glass and a 58-38 advantage in points in the paint.

Andrea Bargnani, returning after missing four games with sore left calf, scored 23 for Toronto. DeMar DeRozan had 18 points.

Report: Mayo fights with Allen on Grizzlies flight

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Yahoo! Sports is reporting that Grizzlies guards O.J. Mayo and Tony Allen got into a fight on the team's charter flight Monday after a card game.

According to the report, which cited unidentified sources, Mayo owed Allen money following the game and became increasingly angry toward Allen when asked to settle the debt. Several players eventually had to separate the teammates.

Grizzlies general manager Chris Wallace acknowledged the altercation in an e-mailed statement but provided no details about what caused the skirmish. He said: "The club considers the matter closed and will not comment further."

Allen had 19 points in the Grizzlies' 110-105 victory over Oklahoma City on Tuesday night. Mayo missed the game with bronchitis.

Teenager Satnam Singh Bhamar touted as India's Yao Ming

NEW DELHI (AP)—Giant teenager Satnam Singh Bhamar idolizes Kobe Bryant, but hopes he can one day do for basketball in India what Houston Rockets star Yao Ming has done for China.

Standing 2.18-meters (7-foot-2) tall, the 15-year-old Bhamar is being touted as the player who can turn Indian basketball around.

"It feels good to be compared to Yao Ming," says the shy boy from rural India, who adds he realizes he has a long way to go after an initial three-month stint at the IMG basketball academy in Florida.

Yao's move from Shanghai to the Houston Rockets made him an icon in China and Bhamar is seen as having the potential to someday hold the same status in India.

Bhamar was among eight players—four boys and four girls—chosen to attend the academy when the Basketball Federation of India recently joined sports management company IMG-Reliance in a 30-year strategy to promote the sport.



In this Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011 photo, Indian teenager Satnam Singh Bhamar poses with a basketball at the Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi, India.

Bhamar's height has ensured he has stood out so far at the one-year training program.

Watching the national championships back in New Delhi, he knows he has a long way

to go before he's ready for the top level.

"I have to work very hard on my speed, power and agility to do well at the top level," Bhamar said. "The training methods are

very different (in Florida) and I was initially worried whether I would be able to cope with the strenuous sessions."

Bhamar says there is a huge gap in the standard of players in India and the U.S.

"I think players here need to forget their style of play," he said. "I was unable to match top (Indian) seniors before I left for my training, but I can already feel the difference when I play with them now in practice sessions."

Bhamar's father Balbir Singh Bhamar, who stands at 2.13 meters (7 feet), could not pursue Basketball due to a lack of opportunities.

"I am really lucky to have got the chance and I want to make my family, coaches and country proud by doing well," said Bhamar, who started playing basketball six years ago.

"The NBA officials I have met have also praised me and see a great prospect in me," he added. "I am going to give it my everything."

Jets deem massage therapists' suit 'without merit'



FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP)—The New York Jets say a lawsuit filed against them and Brett Favre by two massage therapists is “completely without merit,” and the team had not been aware of the accusations.

Christina Scavo and Shannon O'Toole contend in a lawsuit filed Monday they were subjected to sexual harassment and job discrimination. They are seeking unspecified damages from Favre, the Jets and a team massage coordinator, saying they lost their part-time jobs after complaining about sexually suggestive text messages from the 41-year-old quarterback while he was with the team in 2008.

“Unfortunately, the plaintiffs never reported the allegations to the Jets, either during or after the conclusion of their work,” the team said in a statement Tuesday. “The case against the Jets is completely without merit, and we look forward to defending the matter in court, where we are confident that the Jets will prevail.”

Favre's agent, Bus Cook, didn't immediately return a telephone message.

The lawsuit is the latest controversy for the Jets (11-5) in a turbulent, winning season. They play the Colts (10-6) at Indianapolis on Saturday night in the opening playoff round.

While the women don't say they received any messages directly from Favre, the quarterback referred to Scavo in a message proposing a meeting with her and a third, unidentified massage therapist, the lawsuit says.

“Kinda lonely tonight,” he added in a subsequent message to the third masseuse, the lawsuit said. “I guess I have bad intentions.”

The lawsuit came five days after the NFL fined Favre, now with the Minnesota Vikings, \$50,000 for not being forthright in an investigation into allegations that he sent lewd text messages and photos to former Jets game hostess Jenn Sterger when they both worked for the team.

The league's investigation lasted months as the three-time MVP staggered through his 20th NFL season. Favre's consecutive starts streak ended at 297 in December and he sat out the Vikings' final game, a loss to Detroit on Sunday. Afterward he said he's retiring - for good, this time.

The team was fined \$100,000 by the NFL last week for violating league rules when assistant coach Sal Alosi ordered players to form a sideline wall, then tripped Miami's Nolan Carroll during a punt return in December. Special teams coach Mike Westhoff accused other teams of employing similar sideline wall tactics.

An embarrassed coach Rex Ryan has had to answer questions about a foot-fetish report posted by the sports website Deadspin a few weeks ago, saying repeatedly it's a “personal matter.” He has also been criticized for his foul language on HBO's “Hard Knocks” during the summer and was fined \$50,000 by the team last January for his obscene gesture toward a fan during a mixed-martial arts competition in Florida.

There was also the NFL's investigation in September after a reporter for TV Azteca said she felt uncomfortable in the team's locker room. The NFL



Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre speaks to the media after an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions in Detroit, Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011. AP

then developed a workplace conduct program, underwritten by Jets owner Woody Johnson.

A few weeks later, wide receiver Braylon Edwards was arrested and charged with drunken driving, a case that is pending.

During its investigation of the Sterger situation, the NFL reviewed media reports that Favre pursued two massage therapists who worked at the Jets' facility in 2008. But, the league said that claim could not be substantiated because people with “potentially relevant information” wouldn't cooperate with investigators. O'Toole's and Scavo's lawyer, David Jaroslawicz, said he told investigators about the information his clients had.

The two women worked for years at the Jets' training camp in Hempstead, N.Y. - the team now is headquartered in Florham Park - and for various players individually, sometimes giving massages at players' homes, according to the suit. O'Toole brought Scavo into the Jets fold, Jaroslawicz said.

After Scavo and an unidentified colleague gave massages at the training camp in 2008, Favre sent the colleague a text message saying, “Brett here you and crissy want to get together I'm all alone,”

the lawsuit said.

Jaroslawicz declined to identify the massage therapist who allegedly received the messages.

Scavo told her husband, Joseph, about the messages. He told Favre to back off and apologize, according to the lawsuit. The husband got a brush-off from Favre, and his wife and O'Toole got blackballed by the team, the lawsuit contends.

The Jets stopped calling the women for work, initially offering such excuses as having moved the training camp, Jaroslawicz said.

After the allegations about Favre and the masseuses surfaced, the team's massage coordinator, Lisa Ripi, sent Scavo emails referring to Favre as a “pervert” but criticizing Scavo for not having keeping the matter quiet, the lawsuit says.

Meanwhile, Ripi told O'Toole to “keep your mouth shut” and declared that neither O'Toole nor Scavo would work for the team again, the lawsuit says.

Jaroslawicz said his clients held off on suing while awaiting the results of the NFL investigation, but they decided to proceed after the inquiry ended in what they saw as a token fine.

Beltre became a free agent after turning down a \$10 million player option to stay with Boston.

A two-time Gold Glove winner, Beltre hit .321 with 28 homers, 102 RBIs and 49 doubles in 154 games during his only season with Red Sox. He was an All-Star for the first time in his 13-season career.

The Rangers were spurned in their attempt this offseason to keep Cliff Lee, even after offering the ace left-hander \$138 million over six years. Lee instead returned to Philadelphia.

Beltre, who will turn 32 the first week of the regular season, is a .275 hitter in 1,835 career games for the Los Angeles Dodgers (1998-04), Seattle (2005-09) and Boston.

Los Angeles signed Beltre in 1994, and he made his major league debut with the Dodgers four years later. After hitting .334 with 48 homers

and 121 RBIs in his final season with the Dodgers in 2004, Beltre went to the Mariners.

The acquisition of Beltre means yet another position switch for Rangers career hits leader Michael Young, the team's longest-tenured player going into his 11th season.

Young this week publicly expressed his willingness to switch again if Texas got Beltre. Young, who has three years left on his contract, could become a designated hitter while also playing a utility role.

Young was a second baseman when he became a starter for Texas in 2001, then switched to shortstop after Alex Rodriguez was traded in 2004. The Rangers moved Young to third base two years ago when they decided to promote rookie shortstop Elvis Andrus from Double-A.

Raiders don't pick up Cable's option

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP)—The Oakland Raiders informed coach Tom Cable on Tuesday that they will not bring him back as coach next season even though he led them to their best record in eight years this season.

The Raiders announced their decision not to exercise a two-year, \$5 million option on Cable's contract for 2011 and '12, two days after wrapping up an 8-8 season that gave Oakland its first non-losing record since winning the 2002 AFC championship.

“Coach Cable was informed the club would not be exercising its option for the 2011 season, and that he's free to seek employment elsewhere,” his agent, Don Yee, said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. “Teams already have shown interest in Tom.”

The Raiders now begin their search for their sixth coach since Jon Gruden left for Tampa Bay following the 2001 season. Cable lasted longer than any of the previous five, with a 17-27 record since being promoted from offensive line coach to interim head coach early in the 2008 season after Lane Kiffin was fired.

Cable had wide support from his players, who credited him with helping make the team a contender in the AFC West this season after a run of seven straight years of at least 11 losses.

But that was not enough to persuade owner Al Davis to bring him back for a third full season. The Raiders could have waited two weeks to make this decision but acted quickly.

The move comes the same day the Raiders granted the San Francisco 49ers permission to interview offensive coordinator Hue Jackson for their vacant head coaching job.

Davis brought Jackson in after last season to take over the play-calling duties from Cable. Led by a breakout season from running back Darren McFadden and big plays from rookie receiver Jacoby Ford, the Raiders finished sixth in the league in scoring with 410 points. That was the sixth-most points scored in a season in franchise history and more than doubled last year's scoring output.

Jackson will likely be a leading contender for the job. Raiders senior executive John Herrera says the team has not talked to any candidates yet.

The Raiders also could have interest in Stanford coach Jim Harbaugh, who was a quarterbacks coach in Oakland from 2002-03 and is close with Davis. Harbaugh is also being sought by the San Francisco 49ers, among other NFL teams.

Cable has had a tenuous hold on the job ever since getting it when Kiffin was fired four games into the 2008 season. The Raiders took a month after that season before deciding to give Cable a two-year contract and then left the coach in limbo for weeks after last season.

The 2009 season was marred by an investigation into whether he assaulted assistant Randy Hanson and allegations of a history of violence toward women.

The Raiders made big strides to improve under Cable but fell short of making the postseason for an eighth straight season. Oakland became the first team since the 1970 merger to win all of its division games and not make the playoffs.

The Raiders went just 2-8 outside the AFC West this season, with five of those losses coming to teams with losing records.

This season was marked by indecision at quarterback. The Raiders acquired Jason Campbell in the offseason from Washington to replace draft bust JaMarcus Russell. Davis compared Campbell in training camp to two-time Super Bowl winner Jim Plunkett, but Campbell was benched after just six quarters.

Campbell got the job back when Bruce Gradkowski injured his shoulder and eventually won three straight games to put the Raiders in first place in November. But he was benched again after a blowout loss at Pittsburgh.

Source: Beltre, Texas agree to \$96M, 6-year deal

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**
AP SPORTS WRITER



All-Star third baseman Adrian Beltre and the AL champion Texas Rangers reached a preliminary agreement on

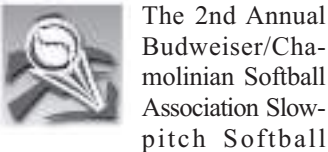
a \$96 million, six-year contract, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity late Tuesday night because the agreement was pending a physical. A news conference was planned for Wednesday.

Texas will have the ability to void the final season of the contract and \$16 million if Beltre fails to reach plate appearance levels specified for 2014 and 2014-15.

Chamolinian softball league holds women's competition

BY WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The 2nd Annual Budweiser/Chamolinian Softball Association Slow-pitch Softball League will also feature women's teams when the competition kicks off on Jan. 28 at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

According to league organizers, five teams will be vying for the women's championship. Only the first five teams to turn in the \$400 entrance fee will be awarded slots in the league. In the men's division, the first 15 squads to complete the registration fee will be allowed to play. Checks should be made payable to Chamolinian Softball Association, Inc.

Coaches or representatives of participating teams are also asked to attend a meeting tonight at 6:30pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Rules and schedule of games will be discussed at the meeting.

Matches in the men's division are set for 6:30pm and 8:30pm on Mondays and Fridays. Then on Wednesdays, three games will be played every night starting at 6:30pm until 8:30pm. Games in the women's division will be played in



Bertha Camacho swings during a local softball tournament at the Capital Hill Ballfield, which will be the venue of the women's competition in the 2nd Annual Budweiser/Chamolinian Softball Association Slow-pitch Softball League.

between the men's matches on Monday and Friday nights or at 7:30pm.

Both divisions will have a round robin format in the regular season.

Last year, 21 men's teams competed in a double-elimination format. In the 2010 finals, top-seeded Natibu defeated Man Amigos, 20-18, to take home the perpetual trophy.

For more information about this year's league, contact Mark Palacios at 322-7444, Liz Palacios at 287-8869 or email Joey Dela Cruz at budkingsbaseball@yahoo.com.

DOLPHINS

From Page 28

Coach Jose Tumaquip's wards started their rally on Erick Dela Rosa's putback off John Cenir's missed drive.

Southern muffed a shot on the other end, while the Dolphins' Joel Chan stepped on the foul line for a pair of charities after drawing a foul against a Southern defender. He made the first one, moving the Dolphins within two, 31-33, with 1:01 left on the clock.

Another Southern botched play returned possession to MHS and Daryl Suarez canned a basket underneath to tie the game, 33-all, with 46 ticks remaining in the game.

Then both teams traded errors before MHS finally controlled the ball and went for a half-court set, trying to melt the clock, which read at 27.2 seconds. The Dolphins wasted 10 seconds before finding an open man from the left wing, but Joel Chan missed the short jumper.

Southern grabbed the defensive rebound and Franklin Macahito streaked to their frontcourt before issuing a drop pass to a cutting Paul Mariano in the middle. Mariano drove strong to the basket and drew a foul on an MHS defender.

With 8.2 seconds left, Mariano had a chance to break the deadlock and gave Southern the lead, but he muffed both charities. MHS got the rebound and from

the backcourt, Mancao dribbled towards their frontcourt, passing a phalanx of defenders and converted the winning layup.

Southern had the last possession, but did not have enough time to pull up for a shot, allowing the Dolphins to escape with a two-point win.

Mancao top-scored for the Dolphins with 12 points. Incidentally, it was also Mancao who made the first basket for MHS. He tallied the first two points of the Dolphins in the third and fourth quarters, too, before making the last and most important basket in the game.

Dela Rosa was the Dolphins' second-leading scorer with nine.

Donald Hockett led Southern's losing cause with 11

points, while Macahito and Alegre chipped in nine and eight, respectively.

Southern and MHS also played in the varsity division game yesterday, but results of the match were unavailable at press time.

Tomorrow, Grace Christian Academy will duel Mt. Carmel School in the varsity division.

Defending champion Kagman High School (varsity division) will start its title defense bid on Monday against the MCS Knights.

MHS 35 – Mancao 12, Dela Rosa 9, Capuyon 4, J. Ano 3, Chan 3, A. Chan 2, Suarez 2.

SSHS 33 – Hockett 11, Macahito 9, Alegre 8, Mariano 5.

Scoring by quarters: 5-6, 12-13, 22-25, 35-33.

MBFNM

From Page 28

whelming support.

The second goal is the establishment a goodwill competition in Micronesia called the Micronesian Master Games, which will feature basketball, soccer, fishing derby, volleyball, baseball, softball, and more.

"To do this, first and foremost, we need commitment from sports associations in the CNMI, Guam, the Federated State of Micronesia, Palau, and the Marshall Islands," Lizama said.

"The Micro Master Games can help jump start the economy by bringing all of our resources together with our athletes throughout the neighboring islands to support a worthy cause of Eco-



Armatech's Faustino Bello pulls up for a jumper during their 40A game against The House in the Masters Memorial Cup at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Games in the Masters caging resume tonight.

Sports Tourism," he added.

Just like the Micronesian Games, MMG members will take

turns in hosting the Games.

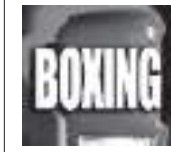
Lizama said that similar Master Games-type competitions

are sprouting around the world, catering to 35 and over age group. These include the Master Games in Gold Coast Australia and the upcoming World Masters Olympics in Italy. However, instead of traveling so far away, he prefers creating a more affordable regional competition that is both closer to home and supports the idea of, "One island, one people, one heart and one sports community."

In other news, the MBF-NMI Memorial Cup continues tonight at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The first game is set for 6:30pm with a 45A action between Top 45's (3-1) and Brotherhood (0-3). Then in the second game at 8pm, a 40A game will feature Armatech (4-1) and AON Blood (0-4).

Shane Mosley huge 1-9 underdog versus Pacquiao



MANILA, Philip - Will Shane Mosley be the next

member of Manny Pacquiao's lucky loser club?

The answer will be known on May 7 when they tangle at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Nevada.

A former three-division world champion, Mosley has been tagged a huge 1-9 underdog despite his reach, height and weight advantage over the eight-division champion and pound-for-pound king Pacquiao.

At 39, Mosley said he feels he still has the tools to snap Pacquiao's string of 12 victories since 2006 and avoid joining Oscar De La Hoya, Ricky Hatton, Miguel Cotto, Joshua Clottey and Antonio Margarito in the lengthening row of the Filipino's famous victims.

Though both were already well-off when they fought

Pacquiao, De La Hoya and Hatton ended up with substantial retirement pays after their knockout defeats.

Cotto suffered the same fate, but lasted up to the 12th round, when the referee stopped the lopsided bout.

Clottey and Margarito drew the biggest paycheck of their ring careers for going the distance with Pacquiao.

The 5-foot-9 Mosley, who lost to Floyd Mayweather Jr. and drew with Sergio Mora in his last two fights, will be the rangiest fighter Pacquiao will face. The American's 74-inch reach is nearly seven inches longer than the 66 1/2 of the 5-6 Pacquiao.

Mosley has also fought five times at 154 pounds, while Pacquiao has never climbed the ring heavier than 149.

Mosley is guaranteed \$5 million plus a share of the pay-per-view revenues. Pacquiao is assured of at least \$15 million. **(PDI)**

MINOR

From Page 28

Bronwyn Plowman of Albury in the first round. In the doubles, Minor's teammate has yet to be listed.

Besides Minor, two other members of the Pacific Oceania Touring Team are competing in the U16 singles event of the 2011

Australia Post Margaret Court Cup. They are Fiji's Terani Kamoe and Annie Shannon, who like Minor are unseeded in the four-day tournament. Kamoe will play her first game against Australia's Phoebe Mansell, while Shannon will challenge New Caledonia's Yaelle Honakoko in the opening round. The two Fiji netters are teammates in the U16 doubles.

BANMI

From Page 28

not here to take your leagues, you can run your own and we will only give guidance—the technical and administrative aspects," Rangamar said.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS				
Dallas	26	8	.765	3
New Orleans	21	14	.600	8 1/2
Houston	16	18	.471	13
Memphis	16	19	.457	13 1/2
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	26	7	.788	—
New York	20	14	.588	6 1/2
Philadelphia	13	21	.382	13 1/2
Toronto	11	23	.324	15 1/2
New Jersey	9	25	.265	17 1/2
Southeast Division				
Miami	28	9	.757	—
Orlando	22	12	.647	4 1/2
Atlanta	23	14	.622	5
Charlotte	11	21	.344	14 1/2
Washington	8	24	.250	17 1/2
Central Division				
Chicago	23	10	.697	—
Indiana	14	18	.438	8 1/2
Milwaukee	13	19	.406	9 1/2
Detroit	11	24	.314	13
Cleveland	8	26	.235	15 1/2
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
San Antonio	29	5	.853	—
Northwest Division				
Utah	24	11	.686	—
Oklahoma City	23	13	.639	1 1/2
Denver	20	13	.606	3
Portland	18	17	.514	6
Minnesota	9	26	.257	15
Pacific Division				
L.A. Lakers	24	11	.686	—
Phoenix	14	18	.438	8 1/2
Golden State	13	21	.382	10 1/2
L.A. Clippers	10	24	.294	13 1/2
Sacramento	7	25	.219	15 1/2
Yesterday's Games				
Miami 101, Milwaukee 89				
New York 128, San Antonio 115				
Chicago 111, Toronto 91				
Memphis 110, Oklahoma City 105				
Dallas 84, Portland 81				
Atlanta 108, Sacramento 102				
L.A. Lakers 108, Detroit 83				

ASSOCIATED PRESS

2010 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League Awardees

PHOTOS BY WALTER SUTHERLAND



The Ol'Aces' Juan Maratita shows his Finals MVP trophy in the U19 division of the 2010 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League during the awards ceremony at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



U15 champions Sonics celebrate their title win against Rollers A.



Bryl Alegre of the Sonics holds the Finals MVP trophy.



The Ol'Aces flash the No. 1 sign after ruling the U19 division.



The Sparks' Ichitaro Faisao, right, receives his U19 regular season MVP trophy from BANMI president Elias Rangamar.



Rollers A players and coaches pose with their runner-up trophy in the U15 division.



The Sonics pose with their U19 runner-up trophy.



Players and coaches of Rollers B pose with their third place trophy in the U15 division.



The Sparks hold their third place trophy in the U19 division.



28 THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2011

Saipan Tribune Sports



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Dolphins slip past Rays in opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The first game in the 2010-2011 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League had a down-to-the-wire finish with Marianas High School surviving Saipan Southern High School, 35-33, yesterday at the MHS Gymnasium.



Michael Mancao drilled the winning basket in the last three seconds of the game to give the Dolphins the victory in the junior varsity division.

The Dolphins managed to escape with a win despite trailing by five, 28-33, going into the final two minutes of the match.

Southern was up by only a hair, 29-28, when Bryl Alegre made it a 30-28 count with his first free throw. Alegre missed his second charity, but collared the offensive board and had a putback. He also drew a foul on John John Capuyon for a bonus free throw. Alegre canned the extra free throw for the Rays' biggest lead.

However, that was also the Rays' last basket, as they struggled for their shots against the Dolphins' scrambling defense. Actually, both teams played helter-skelter basketball in the closing minutes of the match, but MHS managed to make baskets off Southern's errors.

See DOLPHINS on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The MHS Dolphins' Michael Mancao breaks away from the defense of Saipan Southern High School's players en route to the game-winning basket during their junior varsity match in the MISO caging yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. MHS won, 35-33.

MBFNMI chair sets two goals for 2011

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



With the Master Basketball Federation of the NMI nearing its first anniversary, MBFNMI chair Ray Lizama has set two big goals for master-level sports in 2011.

The first goal is to create a sub-committee to oversee and review the eligibility criteria for the first class of potential CNMI Basketball Hall of Fame inductees. Once the sub-committee determines a selection process, it must then submit it to the MBFNMI Board of Directors for consideration. The 2011 induction ceremony is still to be determined.

Lizama, who helped found MBFNMI on Feb. 16, 2010, recalled that during the 11th CNMI Legislature, House Resolution No. 11-222, HD1 adopted the CNMI Hall of Fame to honor past CNMI basketball players, officials, coaches, and administrators. Lizama added that the bill, introduced by then Rep. Manuel "Brown" Tenorio, received over-

See MBFNMI on Page 26

Minor enters semis in Australia



ROSELYN MONROYO

Thea Minor advanced to the semifinals of the girls U18 singles division of the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships in Victoria, Australia, yesterday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



CNMI junior tennis player Thea Minor advanced to the semifinals of the girls U18 singles division of the 2011 Goulburn Valley Junior Championships in Australia despite dropping her second match yesterday.

The 15-year-old netter played in her toughest match so far at the Shepparton Lawn Tennis Club in Shepparton, Victoria, losing to Melbourne's

Alana Dargham, 7-6, 7-6.

The defeat put Minor in the No. 2 spot in Group 2 of the round-robin tournament. Dargham clinched the top ranking, as she went 2-0 in the pool. The Melbourne netter's first win was courtesy of a 6-2, 6-1 triumph against Victoria's Eliza Benson. Minor also downed Benson, 6-1, 6-0, eliminating the latter in the round-robin tournament.

With Minor dropping to the No. 2 spot, she is up against a tough semis foe in Group 1—the undefeated Georgina Jupp of Melbourne. Jupp took the No. 1 seeding in Group 1 after a 6-1, 6-3 win over Bend's Chloe McKenzie. Jupp also prevailed against D'Arcy Curtis-McDonald of Shepparton, 6-3, 6-3, and the Solomon Islands' Amanda Korinihona, 0-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Korinihona booked the second and last semis ticket in Group 1 after finishing the pool in second place. The Solomon Island netter earned a 1-2 record in her pool, tying Curtis-McDonald and McKenzie. In the tiebreak, Korinihona won on points to march into the semis against Dargham.

Korinihona, who notched her lone win in the U18 singles against Curtis-McDonald, 6-3, 6-3, will team up with Minor in the U18 doubles and will duel Curtis-McDonald and partner for the championship today.

Meanwhile, Minor's next event in the Land Down Under will be the 2011 Australia Post Margaret Court Cup.

The Saipan Southern High School freshman entered both the U16 singles and doubles events of the tournament to be played at the Albury Grasscourts in Albury, New South Wales from Jan. 8 to 11.

Minor is unseeded in the 32-player draw of the U16 singles and will battle fellow unranked netter

See MINOR on Page 26

BANMI, UBA forge partnership

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



As the new year starts, a new partnership has also been formed with the

Unified Basketball Association teaming up with the Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands in holding the 2nd Docomo Pacific/UBA Men's League.

"UBA and BANMI are currently working together. Our mission is the same—to improve basketball in general in the CNMI. And the best way to start this is to work together so that we're all on the same page, directions, and most importantly, we follow the same FIBA rules and regulations," UBA president James Lee said.

Lee and the representatives of the nine participating teams in the UBA caging attended a technical meeting last Monday with BANMI and FIBA International referee Gabriel White as facilitator of the event.

"Aside from going over the ground rules of the league and also going over the FIBA rules, Gabriel and I stressed our beliefs in working together to the

coaches, players, as well as other league organizers that attended the meeting. The meeting went well and in the end, it was opened up to Q&A's, as well as discussions and concerns. Teams are just excited to play," Lee added.

In last year's inaugural UBA caging, Lee and company used its own manpower in running



Lee

BANMI president Elias Rangamar said they welcome UBA on their fold.

"It's a great start for the year. We welcome UBA, like any other basketball leagues or organizations which want to be part of BANMI. We're here to help," Rangamar said.

Assistance include certifying coaches and referees for the



Rangamar

the league. This year, several UBA referees had undergone training sessions with BANMI.

"Bottom line is, we, in the basketball community and all the organization can keep stating that we're here for the community and playing by FIBA rules but if we are not working together as one then in reality, we are doing more harm than good for the sport and our players," Lee said.

various leagues and information sharing about FIBA World, FIBA Oceania, and other basketball related issues in the region.

Rangamar also clarified that if an organization decides to be part of BANMI, it does not mean that the latter will take over the former's business.

"It does not work that way, that has been the wrong notion for the past several years. We're

See BANMI on Page 26